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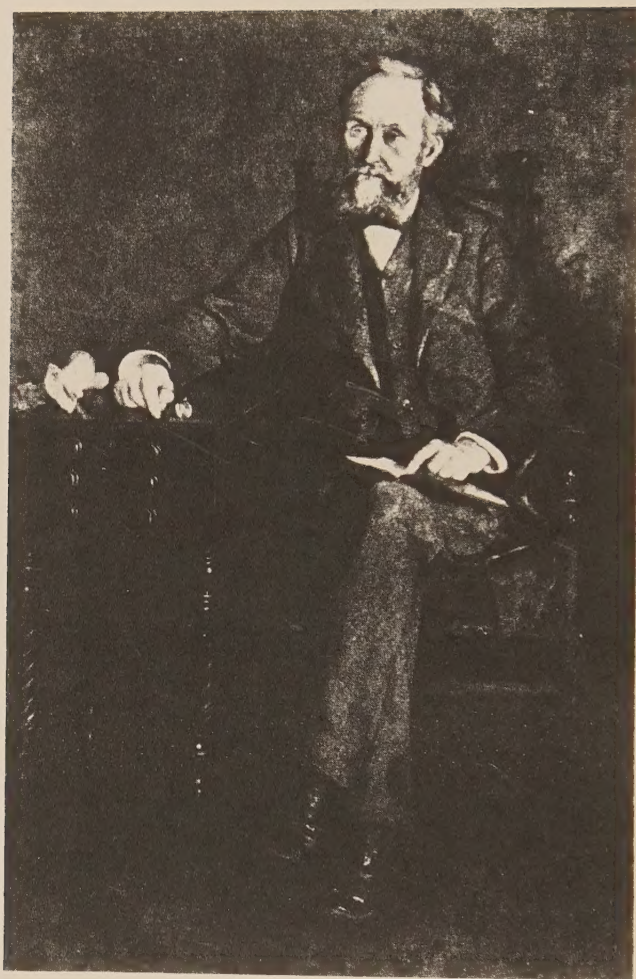












Friendly Yours  
Lyssander S. Richards

# HISTORY OF MARSHFIELD

By

LYSANDER SALMON RICHARDS

Author of "Vocophy, Indicating the Calling one is Best Fitted  
to Follow," "Breaking Up, or the Birth, Development  
and Death of our Planet in Story" and "The  
Universe, a Description in Brief."

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By LYSANDER SALMON RICHARDS.



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## Introduction.

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The author was somewhat surprised (and he thinks the reader will be also) to find when searching through libraries and records, for matter for this work, that Marshfield in the historic growth of the country, was not so much engaged in the processes of legal enactments, as in being the harbor, the stronghold and the home of our greatest men, who gave birth, stability and strength to the powerful government under which we live. Garrett in his book, "The Pilgrim Shore," in speaking of Marshfield says: "An old town that has been truly said, shares with Plymouth the interest that attaches to the early home of the Pilgrims." And sure enough, why should we not claim for Marshfield the second place in the history of the Pilgrims, as the home of the most prominent officials of that period, and the same may be said of Duxbury, but not of any other town. Before Marshfield became fixed as the name of our town, it was given three or four names, such as Missaucatucket, the name known by the Indians, "Green's Harbour," "Rexham," and before the landing of the Pilgrims, when Capt. John Smith sailed along the New England Coast, it was called "Oxford."





## Preface.

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Some time ago the President of the Massachusetts Agricultural College—Mr. Goodell—asked me to procure for him the History of Marshfield for his College. On making a thorough enquiry, I found there was no published History of Marshfield. Miss Marcia Thomas published some years ago a small book giving the genealogy of prominent personages of Marshfield. Rev. George Leonard published a pamphlet entitled "Marshfield Sixty Years Ago." Hon. Wm. T. Davis of Plymouth embodied in a book entitled "History of Plymouth County," a sketch of Marshfield.

It was with a feeling of regret that I was obliged to inform Pres. Goodell of my inability to find a History of Marshfield for his College library. The thought then occurred to me, that in view of the prominence of Marshfield in the history of our country, in the days of the Pilgrims and of the Revolution, there should be at once such a history written and a peg driven as far as we have progressed, to preserve in a general and concise form, the events and occurrences in the development of our Colonial town for the use and enlightenment of future generations. This is my excuse for undertaking this work.

Not having enjoyed the rare fortune of living in Colonial days among the Pilgrims, as a founder and promoter of a great government, I must make use of the accounts of them, and their doings, making such quotations as in my best judgment will mark the footprints of civilization in its march

through nearly three centuries of Marshfield's development. For fear of making the volume too voluminous, I have refrained from putting in all the petty details of unimportant events, and rest content with an account of matters in general as they transpired. I have made a point of giving in this history the status of affairs in town as existing to-day, not so much for the benefit of the reader now living, as for the benefit of the generations to come, that they may become conversant with the affairs of the town as they exist at the beginning of the 20th century.

L. S. RICHARDS.

Marshfield Hills, Massachusetts, U. S. A., 1901.



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## CHAPTER I.

### *Marshfield.*

Marshfield we find first mentioned in Colonial History—[Palfrey's N. E. His.]—in 1632, eight years before its settlement as a town. Plymouth was fast becoming an area too small for the farmer colonists of that town, hence some of the larger and more progressive landed proprietors began to look about them for larger fields, and passing through Duxbury they found in Marshfield not only extensive, but excellent pastures for their cattle, and this is undoubtedly the reason why the Standishes, the Aldens and the Brewsters settled in Duxbury, and the Winslows, the Whites, and the Thomases took up their abode at an opportune time in Marshfield. To prevent further scattering, Goodwin says "several grants of farm lands had been made [1632-3] at Cut River, which from its verdant shores became Green River." "It was thought no one would desire to live so far from Plymouth, and that even the employés would remain there only in the busy season of agriculture; but this plan led to another grievous dispersion under no less a leader than Edward Winslow (afterward Governor). A new church was necessarily conceded, and in 1640 the place became a town called Rexham, soon re-named Marshfield." In some other authorities we find its early name spelt Marchfeeld, and again Marshfeeld. The incorporation of Marshfield occurred in 1640. It was the eighth town incorporated in Plymouth Colony. Four towns were incorporated only the year before, in 1639, Duxbury being incorporated in 1637, and Scituate in 1636. Duxbury was the third town incorporated. It is not known in history why it was given the name of Marshfield, but probably on account of the ex-

tensive marshes occupying 5,000 acres or more along its eastern borders.

Owing to a great plague visiting the Aborigines on our coast a short time before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, the Indian population, which had been quite large, was greatly reduced by the scourge, so that when our forefathers landed, there were but few natives to oppose them if they had so desired, which, notwithstanding the general opinion that they did, the record of that period fails to prove. In the early days of the Pilgrims' existence on our coast, the Indians, for the most part, were hospitable, showing no signs of hostility, and acting with kindness and gentleness, which the Pilgrims reciprocated. A few hostile Indians, as with a few hostile whites of to-day, worried their neighbors. Our forefathers did not rob the poor Indians of their lands, as currently reported among our people from time immemorial, but paid for them, not large amounts to be sure, but satisfactory prices to the Indian nevertheless, in corn, blankets and trinkets. Our forefathers in Marshfield found the ground already tilled when they settled here. The Indians cultivated corn, one of the greatest products of to-day, the 20th century. Into a hill of corn they put a couple of alewives, or other fish, and thus gave us of the 20th century a hint in the growth of this staple article; hence the Indian was the earliest user of commercial fertilizers. At the time of John Smith's voyage along our coast, years before the advent of the Pilgrims, he saw large and thrifty fields of corn grown by the "poor" Indian. The country in Marshfield and thereabouts, except on the marshes, was covered with a large growth of trees, chestnut, hickory, oak, maple, pine, also the hazlenut, beechnut, butternut, and shagbark. It was indeed pleasant for our forefathers to locate in a region where the strawberry, the raspberry, the blackberry, the huckleberry and the cranberry grew in abundance, and then they were delighted to find in their midst the mountain



laurel, the azalia, the rhododendron, the gentian, the asters, and the water lily. Our North River to the sea furnished abundant cod, shad, halibut, trout, herring, smelt, haddock, and pickerel. Again, they were blessed with a large supply of pigeons, geese, ducks, quail, partridge, woodcock, and wild turkey. Bears, wolves, and wildcats chiefly constituted the dangerous animals, but they could hunt the moose, the deer, and the racoon for meat, and for fur, the beaver, the otter, the skunk, the sable, and the fox, and Marshfield at the beginning of the 20th century is yet troubled by foxes and racoons, who make their meals of chickens, ducks and geese in the farmer's poultry yard.

Our Pilgrim fathers were not the first visitors to our shores; the Norsemen Lief and Eric explored the coast of New England as early as the year 1000, and called it Vineland on account of the abundance of grape vines growing everywhere. Two or three years later Thorwald, a brother of Lief, visited these shores, and sailing along Cape Cod Bay, discovered [in the words of Goodwin] "a fine headland, which drew from Thorwald the exclamation, 'This is a beautiful spot and here I should like to fix my dwelling.' Shortly after, being mortally wounded by natives, he gave the following directions: 'Let me be buried on the beautiful headland where I wished to fix my dwelling, put a cross at my head and one at my feet, and let the place be hereafter called "Krossaness." ' " "The Gurnet head, crested and crowned with two lighthouses, standing on the north side of the entrance to Plymouth Harbor, a narrow strip of land running from the mainland at Marshfield, answers well to the description of Thorwald's burial place, and here it is believed was the spot where the brave Captain was laid to rest with Christian rites," three or four centuries before the discovery of America by Columbus, "and the grave was marked with the symbol of his faith. In 1007 Thorfin Karlsefne, with his wife, Gudrig, and one hundred and sixty

men, came with three vessels to our shores and remained three years. During this time a son was born to him, receiving the name of Snorre; he was the first white child born on the American Continent and an ancestor of Thorwaldsen."

Marshfield is bounded easterly by the North River, the ocean and the town of Duxbury, and southerly by Duxbury and Pembroke, westerly by Duxbury, Pembroke, and the North River, and northerly by the North River and the ocean.

## CHAPTER II.

### Peregrine White.

When Bradford and a few other Pilgrims returned to the Mayflower, after exploring the country shortly after landing, the Pilgrim Republic says: "A son had been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. White, and in token of the pilgrimage then in progress the little stranger was named Peregrine. He was destined to outlive every member of the company into which he was born; and after a youth unduly gay for his day and generation, even in the next century, long after Plymouth Colony had been merged in Massachusetts, a fine, hearty looking veteran of Marshfield used to be pointed out with great respect as Capt. Peregrine White, the first English child born in New England. It was in 1632 that Peregrine White went to Marshfield with his stepfather's family. In 1636 he volunteered for the Pequod war. In 1642 he was ancient bearer (or ensign) of the train band, under Myles Standish. He was a member of the General Court and also a member of the Council of War. In 1648 he married Sarah, daughter of Wm. Bassett, by whom he had six children. She died in 1711. He was very attentive to his mother, visiting her daily in his later years. He made these visits on a black horse and wore a coat with buttons the size of a silver dollar. He was vigorous and of a comely aspect to the last. In 1665, at the request of the King's commissioners, the General Court gave 200 acres of land to him, as the first white native in New England." His estate was held in the family through all the generations up to within two or three decades. It is now held and occupied, at the beginning of the 20th century, by Alonzo Ewell, who keeps upon it the largest flocks of poultry, ducks, geese and pigeons

in Marshfield. Even at this late day, he is troubled with foxes, and has killed the past winter five of them. There is still growing, or was a few years ago, a shoot of the apple tree planted by Peregrine upon this place, and a portion of the timbers of the house occupied by Peregrine is still in existence in the dwelling of Mr. Ewell. Notwithstanding this place is among the earliest settled in Marshfield, the region thereabouts is perhaps the most sparsely inhabited of any village in town. It is two and a half miles north of the Webster place. Mr. White joined the church in his 78th year, and died in Marshfield in 1704, aged 84. His descendants were many and honorable. Notwithstanding he served as a soldier in the Indian wars and gained the title of Captain, he seems to have led a peaceful life, except that at one time we find in 1649 a Mr. Hollaway and Peregrine White were indicted for fighting. We think that Hollaway must have been the aggressor, for we found elsewhere that "Hollaway was fined 5s. for abusing and provoking Sprague." Yet there is no doubt that our beloved townsman was a lively, gay youth and kept things moving about him. The last direct descendant of Peregrine living on the place was Miss Sybil White, a maiden lady, who removed from there about a quarter of a century ago, as it was considered unsafe for her in her old age to live there longer. A while before her departure from the home place, her brother, John White, carried on the farm with her, but he became insane and was removed to the hospital. It was after this event that she felt compelled to leave it and remove to the village of East Marshfield, now Marshfield Hills, some three or four miles distant. The author became a neighbor and was acquainted with this rather eccentric woman up to the time of her death. She was a good and pious woman. A short time before her death, she was a little worried because she knew of no near heir to whom she could leave her property, and finally she adopted a novel method of finding one.

She advertised in a Boston daily paper for an heir. A brother had left home in his early manhood and she had not the slightest knowledge of him or his children. In answer to her advertisement she received a number of letters. I would not dare to say how many, but there were nearly fifty, and out of this number there was one that impressed her as genuine, that of Ashton White, of Washington, D. C. He came here at her request, and at an interview the proofs he offered of his relationship were convincing to her. After he had returned to his post in Washington, in one of the departments, she made out her will, and at her decease, not a long while after, Mr. White (a nephew, as claimed) became the possessor of her well invested property, and although that was nearly 25 years ago, I have never heard doubted among her distant relatives, living at the Hills, that he was the rightful and only heir. He or his children are now living in Washington. She also left in her will some \$800, in trust, to the selectmen of the town, the income or interest of, which was to be spent in providing aid to worthy and destitute spinsters in Marshfield, and it has for these years following been so spent. There are many descendants of Peregrine White now living in Marshfield, but none on the old homestead.

## CHAPTER III.

### *Old Colonists' Deeds.*

From the Plymouth Colony records I will select three or four copies of deeds in Marshfield, as follows :

"27th September 1642—Memorand: That Mr. Edward Winslow came into Public Court and did acknowledge That he hath absolutely and freely given, granted, enfeoffed and confirmed unto Peregrine White, his son in law, all & singular those his lands lying at the Eele River wth all singular the apprtences thereunto belonging and all his right title and interest of & into the same. To have and to hold all and singular the said land & wth their apprtences unto said Peregrine White his heirs and assignes for ever to the onely proper use and behoofe of him the said Peregrine White his heires and Assignes for evr."

The following is a deed given to Robert Carver (a brother of the first Governor of the Colony, Gov. John Carver, said Robert Carver being the progenitor or ancestor of many Carvers now living in Marshfield) of a lot of land in Marshfield at Green Harbor, near the Careswell place of Gov. Ed. Winslow, said Carver becoming an early settler in Marshfield with Gov. Winslow and others. It reads:

"The Xth of Septembr 1641. Memorand. That Edmond Hawes of Duxborrow doth acknowledge that for and in consideration of the sum of two thousand foote of Sawne boards to be delived and payed him by Robert Carver of the same Sawyer Hath freely and absolutely bargained and sold unto the said Robert Carver all those his Ten acres of upland lyinge crosse Green's Harbor payth wth all his labors in & aboute the same wth all and singueler the apprtences thereunto belonging and all his Right Title an interest of



and into the said prmiss. To have and to hold the said Tenn acres of upland & wth all and singuler the apprtences thereunto belonging unto the said Robte Carver his heirs and assignes for ever and to the onely per use and behoofe of him the said Robert Carver his heires and assignes forever."

"Bradford Govr

"The seaventeenth day of March 1645.

"Memorand the same day That Mr. Myles Standish and Mr. John Alden do acknowledged joyntly and seavally That for and in consideracon of the sum of three score and eleaven pounce and tenn shillings to them allowed in payment of the said account to Mr. John Beauchamp Have freely and absolutely bargained and sold unto Mr Edmond ffreeman All those their three hundred Acres of vplands wth the meddowing therevnto belonging lying on the North side of the South River wth in the Township of Marshfield to them formly joyntly granted by the Court the second day of July in the fourteenth yeare of his said Maties now Raigne of England and all their Right title and interest jointly or seavally of and into the said prmisss wth their apprtence & every part and pcell thereof To have & to hold the said three hundred Acres of upland wth the meddowes thereunto belonging wth all & every their apprtences unto the said Edmond ffreeman his heirs and assignes forever to the onely p per use and behoofe of him the said Edmond ffreeman his heires & As-ss forever."

One half of the above estate was sold two years later to Arthur Howland (who became a resident of Marshfield and one of the earliest) for twenty-one pounds sterling, part to be paid in money and part in corn and cattle. It will be seen that if the above half sold was equally as good as the other half, our Pilgrim fathers were not good speculators, for in the space of two years Mr. Freeman sold one half his purchase for fourteen and a half pounds less than he gave for it.

The other half I find recorded in Plymouth Colony Records sold to Thomas Chillingsworth, Oct. 4. 1648. Three years after the original purchase of Myles Standish and John Alden in 1645, for the consideration of six and twenty pounds sterling, to be paid in money, corn and cattle.

Another deed I find given Oct. 22, 1650, from Richard Church, of land lying in Marshfield on the south side of South River to John Dingley.

## CHAPTER IV.

### *Indian Lands and Deeds.*

I will give a copy of some of the Indian lands owned and occupied by them before the landing of the Pilgrims, showing that our fathers were not the robbers and grabbers of land commonly supposed.

"1674 Winslow Govr [Plymouth Colony Records.]

"Know all men by these presents that I Quachattasett Sachem of Mannomett doe acknowledge my selfe fully satisfied and payed therewith for and in consideration of a certaine tract or prsell of land sold by mee the aforesaid Quachattasett unto the aforesaid Will Hedge the which tract of land lyeth att a place by the English the blacke banke near unto break hart hill but called by Indians 'Monechehan.' (Then follows a long description of boundary from top of hill to a certain pond, etc., etc., which I will not farther relate.) In witness whereof I the aforesaid Quachattasett have hereunto sett my hand and seale this sixt day of Aprill in the yeare one thousand six hundred seaventy and four.

"The Mark of Quachattasett (here)

"and a (seal)

Signed, Sealed and delivered

in the prsence off

Richard Bourne

Sherjasrubb Bourne

( This deed was acknowledged  
by Quachattasett the 4th of the  
4th Month 1674 before mee

John Alden, Assistant."

The following is a document made and given by that renowned Indian chief, King Philip:

"This may informe the honord court that I Phillip ame willing to sell land within this draught, but the Indians that are vpon it may live vpon it still, but the land that is (waste) may be sold and Wattachpoo is of the same mind; I have set downe all the principall names of the land wee are not willing should be sold. ffrom Pacanankett  
the 24th of the 12th Month 1668

"Phillip :P: his mark."

Another deed from the Indians:

"Know All men by the presents that I Quachattasett Sachem of Manmomet doe sell vnto Hope a certaine pcell of Land lying att Pokasett; bounded as followeth viz: of land lying betwixt the Rivers or brookes called Annussanatonsett and another called Wakonacob; and soe downe to the sea and to the old way as they goe, to Saconeesett; all which the premises, I the aforesaid Quachattasett doe freely æll from mee and myne vnto him and his heirs foreur all priviledges, libertie of the sea and what ever is prmises; I doe confeirme this psent day being the 9th of June in the yeare 1664.

Witness my hand (Signed) Quachattasett—his  $\zeta$  mark.

Witness Richard Bourne

Paumpunitt—James Attukoo"

In consulting the old Plymouth Colony Records, I find between two and three dozen conveyances of lands which the Indians in their own right possessed, and in quite a number of instances deeds were conveyed and recorded in the Plymouth Colony Records in Colonial times, conveying from father to son or from father to daughter, or to some friend, without any consideration or price, and these Indians had them recorded on the Plymouth record book, so that the lands they owned could be passed from one Indian to another and held sacred by the Colony as lands belonging to these Indians in severalty.

To show the caution the Plymouth Colony Court took, in seeing that the Indians should not be deprived unjustly of their lands, I have copied the following from the Plymouth Colony Records:

"The Court understanding that some in an underhand way have given unto the Indians money or goods for their lands formerly purchased according to order of Court by the magistrates thereby insinuating as if they had dealt unjustly with them, it is enacted by the Court that some course be taken with those whom we understand have lately transgressed in that kind."

"1665 Prence Govr"

"A deed appointed to bee Recorded. These presents witnesseth that I Josias alias Chickatabutt doe promise by these presents to give vnto the Indians living vpon Catuhtkut River viz: Pompanohoo Waweews and the other Indians liveing there; that is three miles vpon each side of the River (excepting the lands that are alreddy sold to the English, either Taunton or Bridgewater and doe promise by these presents not to sell or give to any pte or pcell of land; but that the aforesaid Indians shall peaceably enjoy the same without any interruption from mee or by any means in any respect; the which I doe engage and promise by these presents. witness my hand this 9th of June in the yeare 1664.

(Signed)

Chickatabutt alias Josias I Q his mark

Wullanaumatuke Q his mark

Witness

Richard Bourne

John Low Q his mark"

"These presents Witnesseth  
that wee Adloquaupoke and Saseekowett both of Onkowan doe sell vnto Nokanowitt of Ashumueitt a certaine Iland with a longe beach adjoining to it, being neare vnto a place called Quanaconwampith the Iland being called Ontsett, the

which land wee convey from vs and our children for ever vnto the aforesaid Nokanowitt and his assignees for our acknowledging ourselves fully satisfied and payed. Witnesse our hands this twenty fourth of July 1666.

Signed Saseekowutt Q his mark

" Adloquanpoke Q " "

Witnesse

Richard Bourne"

In 1659, a large tract of land (says Baylies) on Taunton river was purchased of Ossamequin (Massasoit) and his son Philip (King Philip) and the squaw sachem Tatapanum, by several of the inhabitants of Duxbury and some of Marshfield, which tract was afterwards included in Little Compton, Rhode Island, but no settlement was commenced for several years."

I trust I have made it sufficiently manifest, by publishing the preceding conveyances of lands, and documents, that the lands the Indians occupied were not stolen by our Forefathers or taken possession of by right of occupation, or in the words of the frontiersman, by "squatting" on them.

The King may have taken possession formally of lands as a whole in the various Colonies, as lands belonging to his kingdom, by conquest or discovery, the same as the United States took possession of Louisiana by right of purchase from Napoleon in the name of France, but the title of individual lands purchased and conveyed from individual to individual before or after the United States purchase did not change. Each man or woman severally and individually retained his acre or acres obtained by right of individual purchase, gift, or inheritance, undisturbed.

Of course there were many lands and large tracts of land uninhabited and forsaken by the Indians at the time of the landing of the Pilgrim Forefathers, owned by nobody, and in the getting possession of these lands we find the following recorded in the Plymouth Colony Records:

"A fforme to be placed before the Records of the feveral



inheritance & granted to all the King & subjects inhabiting within the Governmt of New Plymouth.

Wheras John Carver—Will. Bradford—Edw. Winslow—Wm. Brewster—Isaah Allerton and divers others, the subjects of our late Sov. Lord James, by the grace of God, King of Eng. Scot, ffrance & Irel. Defender of the ffaith &c. did in the eighteenth yeare of his raigne of Engl, ffrance & Ireland, and of Scot l. the fifty four which was in the yeare of our Lord God 1620 undertake a voyage into that pt of America called Virginia or New England, thereunto adjoining, there to erect a plantacon & colony of English, intending the glory of God, the inlargemt of his maties dominions and the speciall good of English nation. And whereas by the good providence of our gracious God the said John Carver—Will. Bradford.—Edward Winslow—Wm. Brewster—Isaac Allerton & their associates arived in New England aforesaid in the harbour of Cape Cod or Paomet scituate in New England, aforesaid, where all the psons entred into a Civill Combinacon being the eleaventh of Novb in the yeare afore mentioned as the subjects of our said Sov. Lord the King to become a Body-politick binding ourselves to observe such lawes & ordinances and obey such Officers as from time to time should be made & chosen for our wellordering & guidance, And thereupon by the favor of the Almighty began the first Colony in New England (there being then no other wthin the said Continent.) at a place called by the natives Apaum a Z s Patuxet, but by the English New Plymouth. All wch lands being void of inhabitants, we the said John Carver—Will. Bradford Edward Wynslow—Wm. Brewster—Isaack Allerton the rest our Associates entring into a league of peace wth Massassowatt, since called Woosamequin Prince or Sachim of those pts. He the said Massassowat freely gave them all the lands adjacent to them & their heires forever, acknowledging himselfe content to become the subject of our Sovereigne Lord the king aforesaid, his heirs, successors," etc., etc.

## CHAPTER V.

### *Beginning of Marshfield Town Records at Town Clerk's Office.*

(I make only such selections of the Town Records as I think will interest the reader of this History.)

“1640—At the General Court held 2nd of March 1640—“It is enacted by the Court that Green’s Harbor shall be a Township and have all the privileges of a township that other towns have and that it shall be called by the name of Rexhame, but now Marshfield.”

1643—Sept. 27th At a Town meeting (in Marshfield) held the day & year above written it was agreed that there be a constant watch in the township, that is to say in four several quarters at Mr. Edward Winslows, at Mr. Wm. Thomas, at Mr. Thos Bournes & fourth at Robert Barkers. Whereas it is probable that imminent danger is near to the whole body of the English in this land, it is ordered at Present that four watches be maintained within this township as above.”

“That a guard of two at least be maintained out of them. That a sentinel be maintained all day at the place of the guard. That foreasmuch as the Township consists of \*  
\* \* \* persons at present that therefore so long as the danger is like to continue viz: 14 days at least every man shall lodge in his clothes, with arms ready by his bedside that so he may be ready to give assistance according to need.” “That in case an alarm be given by night from any other township, then every guard discharge only one piece but if any alarm arise in our own Township then by two pieces at least and that then every person repair to his quar-

ters or place of guard, and half of the strength of the guard make their particular quarters and the other go to relieve that other quarter that is in danger. That this watch begin this present night, being the 27th of this present month & continue until further notice. That on the Sabbath days these guards be continued, and that the rest of those that are liable to bear arms bring them to the place of worship and in case any return from hence to take their arms with them."

1643—Oct. 19—"Wm. Thomas hath promised a snaphance musket, sword & belt knapsack & powder pouch. Mr. Edward Winslow a snaphance musket & a powder bag.—Josiah Winslow promised a back sword. Rogor Cook a belt—The North River men to find a Knapsack."

Grants of meadow *land* were granted at Town meeting in 1643-4 to Robert Carver. (Bro. of Gov. Carver) & Wm Thomas—Wm. Thomas & Wm. Vassall were appointed at town meeting to lay out to several inhabitants lands on the North side of Green's Harbor River, of all lands undisposed of on that side, and also of the Marshes undisposed of on the South Side of said river, according to their discretion & so laid it out to several inhabitants, some of them were Thos. Bourne,—Josias Winslow—Kenelm Winslow—John Russell,—John Dingley & Thos Chillingsworth."

1643-4—Feb. 27—

It is claimed that the first regularly organized Town Meeting in North America, with a *Moderator* chosen to preside, took place in Marshfield in 1643.

"At a town meeting held the day & yeare aforesaid it is agreed by the joint consent of the inhabitants, that at the beginning of every town meeting there shall be one made choice of to be *Moderator* for the business of that day and that there be no disturbance in the assembly, and the occasions being ended, he shall dismiss the town meeting and in case any shall be a disturber of the meeting and not submit to the Moderator, he shall be fined in sixpence for every such

disorder, so judged by the town and in case any be wanting at the said town meeting and do not appear at the hour appointed he shall be fined in sixpence for one hour, or if any shall depart without orderly dismissal shall pay sixpence for every hour and for non appearance, eighteenpence as formerly agreed."

Wm. Thomas was chosen as the first Moderator of Marshfield.

"Also it is agreed that if any shall absent themselves from the exercise of Arms, any of the days appointed by the Captain, and for an hour, sixpence except upon just excuse allowed and approved by a Magistrate inhabiting of this township and all such fines so to be approved to be levied by warrant from the Magistrate by the Constable and clerk of the band and they to be accountable to the town."

[All along in the early years of the township of Marshfield appears in the town meeting records, grants of land, given and apportioned by the town to various individuals, who settled here in that early period.]

1644—July 18—"At a town meeting Arthur Howland & Luke Lilly are fined according to an order for not appearing upon a public warning in 18 pence a piece and Capt Thomas 6 pence for not appearing at the hour. Mr. Edward Winslow was chosen Moderator. At this town meeting the inhabitants there met upon serious consideration of the dangers that are like to arise, they find that not any one watch or two can be to the preservation of this township, therefore the same to the said neighborhood unless some special order comes from authority. And in case there should be any assault by the Indians they have considered that Mr. Edward Winslow—Mr. Thomas's houses and the house of Jos. Beadle to be places tenable, and fit refuge for the safe guard of ourselves, wives & children that are this side of the South River and for the inhabitants upon the North River the most part of them being absent, though

being lawfully warned, we thought meet to leave them to consider of a place convenient for a safe retreat for themselves, their wives, & children & if they shall neglect so to do upon complaint of the constable or any one or more to the Committee, and they are to complain to the Governor, who we desire set down an order in this case. It is ordered that Capt. Nathl Thomas being one of our Committee, that he entreat the government to betrust some one of our town with a barrel of powder that in case of any apparent danger appears, the town may be supplied and the person so betruſted to be accountable to the government."

A dozen men were fined six and eighteen pence for not appearing at the appointed hour of town meeting, and some for not appearing during the day.

"1646—At the town meeting it was agreed that Ed. Winslow should agree with F. Godfrey for making a bridge over South River, and what he shall agree the town are ready to affirm."

"At the same town meeting Jos. Beadle, John Gorham & Thos. Tilden were chosen Raters, (to fix taxes) and the sum that they are to raise is two pounds ten shillings for a public charge, and forty seven shillings and a penny for the charges of the Committee & other considerations, the town are willing the sum of five pounds & twelve shillings be raised in the whole."

[The first case of the Town's help to the poor appears here, 1646.]

"At the same town meeting Josiah Winslow & John Dingley were appointed by the town to take order that Roger Cooke be forthwith sent to Mr. Chauncey to cure, and for what they shall be at, either sending of him or in his cure, or for his diet and lodging, the town promise to save the said Josias and John Dingley harmless."

1647—[A case where the town duns a bill, due from one individual to another.]

"At the town meeting it was ordered & agreed that there should be a rate made (taxes) of five pounds sterling for the payment of the charge of 'fissick' (physic) and diet of Roger Cook to Mr. Chauncy & Goodman Hicks at Scituate & for that and Anthony Snow, Ralph Chapman & John Russell are chosen raters. And also that town thinks meet that monies due to Roger Cook from Arthur Howland be payed to the town to help to pay his future charge."

"1650—At a town meeting held this day & year, John Phillips of this town hath put his son Wm. Phillips, being about the age of seven years the first of December last past, unto John Bradford of the town of Duxborough and his now wife, and either of them, or the survivor of them, after the manner of an *Apprentice* for an during the term of fourteen years from the first of December aforesaid & the said John Bradford doth covenant & promise to maintain his said apprentice in good & sufficient meat, drink & apparel fitting for such an apprentice during the said term and at the end of said term the said John Bradford is to give him two suits of apparel & also the sum of five pounds sterling, either in corn or cattle & also the said John Bradford doth promise to teach and instruct the said apprentice, to write and read and give him that education as becometh a master to a servant."

1651.

"It was agreed at the town meeting that the said committee and Peregrine White are in the behalf of the town to look to all such persons as live disorderly in the township, and to give them warning; and in case they do not redress their course of life that then they shall use such means to redress such abuses as they find in any such persons to be as the whole town may do if they were all present"

1652. *Taxes on Animals.*

"At a town meeting it is agreed upon by the inhabitants there present, that for the making the rates for the town, that horses and geldings at the age of three years old and



upward shall pay for the price for rate of three cows, and at two years old shall be valued at the price in the rate of two cows, and that all colts, whether sucklings or yearlings shall be valued in the rate at the price of one cow, and that all oxen that are five years old and upwards shall be rated at the price of seven pounds, and all cows that are four years old and upwards at four pounds and ten shillings a head, and all steers of four years old at the same price, four pounds, ten per head, and all three years old and two years old at three pounds per head, and all year old and vantage at forty shillings a head, and all calves at twenty shillings a head, and all sheep, lambs and wethers at 20<sup>s</sup> a head, and all swine that is a year old and upwards at 20<sup>s</sup> a head, and all swine that are six months old and upwards, 5<sup>s</sup> a head. It is further agreed upon that all cattle wintered and summered in the township of other persons, either in this town or elsewhere, shall be liable to the payment of the town charges at the same price that the inhabitants doth pay for their own cattle.

“It is further agreed that whosoever shall not give in the whole sums of his cattle to the Raters that he hath wintered and summered according to an order here specified, shall pay for every such default, 20<sup>s</sup> a head.”

1652.

“It is agreed upon by the inhabitants then present that if any person or persons in this town shall kill any wolves in this township, that such persons upon sufficient information of it to the town, shall have twenty shillings per head for every wolf so killed.

It is agreed that Thomas Tilden shall be paid twelve shillings for the killing of a wolf.”

Paid—

John Bourne, transporting powder,  
Transportation of the rate and for the meeting  
house,

1<sup>s</sup>—6<sup>d</sup>

£2—10<sup>s</sup>

For 200 lbs. lead,  
For killing of a wolf,

3—0  
—12s—

1653.

“At the town meeting it is agreed upon that all young men who are in the township that are single persons, and are at their own hands, shall be liable to pay all the town’s rates as the rest of the inhabitants do, after the value of ten pounds a head for every such person.”

1655.

“At the town meeting it is ordered that not any of the inhabitants of this town shall receive any person or persons as inmates or inhabitants without permission legally from the town, at the town meeting, that so the town may take such security as they shall see convenient.”

1657.

“At the town meeting the inhabitants have agreed that Ensign Eames, Wm. Macomber, Sen<sup>r</sup>, shall provide a *Meeting* house to be placed according to a former grant for the town’s use, and so that they may remove this meeting house which is resident already an enlarged, may by them be thought convenient, or else to sell or dispose of this house for the furtherance of said work, or otherwise agree with workmen to build it, and they do order the dimensions, thereof, as the said three men doth see meet for the best conveniency for the town’s use, and the town doth engage to answer the disbursements as the said house shall require in the building thereof.”

[The above meeting house was located at or near the Winslow burial ground.]

*Cutt River.*

I find the following recorded in the Old Colony records concerning Marshfield about the year 1645. “It is also ordered by the Court that the Cutt at Greens Harbour for a boate passage shal be made eighteen foote wide and sixe foote deepe. And for the manner how the same shal be

done for the better ordering thereof; it is referred to the Govern<sup>r</sup> and Assistants w<sup>th</sup> the help of John Winslowe—Jona. Brewster—John Barnes, Christopher Waddesworth as well to proportion every man equally to the charge thereof as also to order men that shall worke thereat, that tenn men may worke together there at once, and that the Govnor or whom he shall appoynt shall oversee the same, that it may be performed.”

## CHAPTER VI.

### *Marriages Among the Pilgrims.*

Says Goodwin, "The first marriage in the Colony occurred May 21st, 1621, between Edward Winslow (afterwards Governor), who had been a widower only seven weeks, and Susanna White (mother of Peregrine), a widow not twelve weeks, but the case was exceptional. Winslow should be at the head of a household, and the White children needed a paternal guardian. The marriage proved fortunate for all concerned. Among Mrs. Winslow's subsequent children was Josiah, whom 52 years later she saw the first native Governor of an American Colony. The forefathers of Marshfield and elsewhere throughout the Colony did not marry before clergymen, but performed the ceremony before magistrates for many years, not because in their earliest days they had no clergymen (Elder Brewster was a layman, although performing many of the duties of a clergyman) but because our fathers held that the Scriptures and the early Christians had not empowered clergymen to perform marriages, believing it to be a civil compact only between man and woman." Gov. Bradford's eldest son married Martha, a daughter of Thomas Bourne, of Marshfield."

Marriages were very strict in our forefathers' time. A previous contract of the parties' intention of marriage before the final marriage, must be made, and publicly announced. Sometimes it was for weeks and months, and sometimes a year in advance, and a newly married couple's previous requirements were watched very closely when the wedding knot was tied. In some cases where a violation of the requirements occurred, the husband was severely whipped, while the wife sat near by with hands and feet secured in

stocks, to witness her husband's punishment. Finally it was changed to a fine. The offenders were both of a high and low grade socially. Among some of the offenders is mentioned our earliest townsman, Peregrine White, of Marshfield.

## CHAPTER VII.

### *Punishments by Pilgrims.*

Notwithstanding our forefathers have the name of being very strict in their religious observances and in their punishments of crime, they were mild and liberal in comparison to some of their neighboring colonies here and in other states. Massachusetts Bay (Gov. Winthrop's) Colony, around Boston and vicinity, made thirteen crimes punishable by death. Virginia Colony, seventeen—and in the latter Colony, a man for believing and advocating Unitarianism was punishable by death, and the same penalty was enforced upon Unitarians in England in King James's time; and even later in the days of Queen Elizabeth, pious men were hanged for advocating Congregationalism (Orthodoxy). Maryland punished believers and advocates in Unitarianism with death. Though our Forefathers' faith was good and strong, they laid down no formal creed to guide them. The Old Colony had but five classes of crime to be punished by death, and only two were ever enforced. Our Forefathers, unlike the Puritans of Boston, Salem, etc., never hung a witch. The Quakers, if non-residents, were treated rather harshly. Arthur Howland, a resident of Marshfield, was liberal in his views, and sympathized with the Quakers. About the year, 1657, according to Goodwin, author of the Pilgrim Republic, "John Phillips, the constable going to Arthur Howland's house in Marshfield to leave a summons, saw a non-resident Quaker preacher, Robert Tuchin, and arrested him. Howland interfered and ejected the constable from his house, declaring, as the latter certified, that he would have 'a sword or gun in the belly of him.' Two sons of John Rogers (of the Mayflower) refused to aid the constable. When the official re-

turned with a possé, Tuchin had escaped. Howland was forthwith taken to Alden's house and tried before Collier, Alden and Josiah Winslow, who ordered him to give bonds to the General Court; he refusing to furnish bail, they put him in charge of the Colony's Marshal, Lieutenant Nash, who lived near. He was eventually fined £4 for harboring Tuchin, and £5 for resisting the officer. Soon after, he sent the court an indignant protest against Anti-Quaker measures, and was then arrested for contempt. The court decided that as his estate would not bear further fines, and he was too old and infirm to be whipped, he be released in acknowledgment of error, which was done." A romantic case is recorded concerning the son of this same Arthur Howland of Marshfield. It was in 1660 when Thomas Prence was Governor of the Colony, and concerned his daughter. "The tolerant course of the elder Arthur Howland toward Quakers had earned the ill will of Gov. Prence, and when in 1660 he found Arthur Howland, Jr., had wooed his daughter Elizabeth, he had the swain before the General Court, where he was fined £5 for making love without her father's permission. The couple remained constant, however, for in 1667 the irate Governor once more brought up young Arthur, who was again fined £5 because he had disorderly and unrighteously endeavored to obtain the affections of Mistress Elizabeth Prence, and was put under a bond of £50 to refrain and desist. But Prence, like Canute, was unable to control the forces of nature. This action was in July, but before the next spring the imperious Governor seems to have been forced to capitulate, for Arthur, Jr., and Elizabeth were united, and in the course of events there was a Thomas Howland and a Prence Howland. Governor Prence's friend and neighbor. Constant Southworth, had a like experience with his daughter Elizabeth. In his will, 1679, he gave her "My next best bed and furniture, with my wife's best bed, provided she do not marry Wm. Fobes, but if she do, then to



have 5s." The bed and adjuncts were then worth thirty times 5s, for a fine bed was thought a goodly bequest; but it was the grand old story; Elizabeth chose to have 5s with William, to two beds without him, and provided her own beds."

Attendance at church was made compulsory in the Colony. "Arthur Howland and wife of Marshfield, who at divers times seem to have caused the officers of the Colony some uneasiness were fined for not attending public worship, and he was also arrested for neglecting his minister's tax; in respect to his age, however, he was excused till further notice. "In 1666 Wm. Thomas, 2nd, charged Pastor Arnold of Marshfield with teaching rank blasphemy, and the General Court on examining the sermon declared it pure orthodoxy, and censuring Mr. Thomas for great arrogancy, cautioned him to carry more soberly." Some of the women of Marshfield were pugnacious in Pilgrim days, and some were unruly, for in 1666 we find Constable Ford of Marshfield having arrested Widow Naomi Sylvester, Ford was attacked; and she was rescued. As a penalty their brother, William, was ordered to pay Ford £2." It does not appear what the nature of the first offence was, and it does not follow that the offence would have been at all criminal in our time; but in Pilgrim days, as we have already seen, it was made a crime to harbor a non-resident Quaker, and also non attendance to church. It was a law in the Colony that a man should be indicted for swearing, lying and making seditious speeches, etc. "Thomas Ewer was indicted for seditious speeches, to lie neck and heels at the court's will, but being infirm was pardoned and warned that for the next offense he would be banished from the Colony." "Ralph Smith for lying about seeing a whale, fined 20s." "Thomas Lucas for swearing," sentenced to be put in the stocks. In 1651 John Rogers of Marshfield was fined 5s for villifying the ministry. A Mr. Winter, who in 1660 was constable of Marshfield, was

in 1638 fined 10s for publishing himself to Jane Cooper, contrary to order and custom; he was also excommunicated from the church at Scituate. The next year, on the charge of antenuptial intimacy, Winter was sentenced to be whipped at the post, at the Governor's discretion, and his wife to be whipped at the cart's tail through the street."

## CHAPTER VIII.

### *The Founder of Marshfield.*

It is well here to give some account of *Edward Winslow*, who was called the founder and father of Marshfield, the Governor and one of, if not *the* most prominent man of Plymouth Colony; he was the most accomplished of all the Pilgrims. Three men, it is universally conceded, were the leading men in the early settlement of New England, and they were Gov. Bradford, Miles Standish and Gov. Edward Winslow. Some add the name of Elder Brewster. Bradford noted for the administrative affairs of the Colony. Miles Standish for his military heroism in the defense of the Colonists, and Gov. Winslow for the management of the business and commercial affairs of the Colony. Holton's Winslow Memorial says: "Gov. Edward Winslow was born at Droitwich, England, October 18, 1595. He was the third on the list who signed the Compact before the Pilgrims' disembarkation. When Mr. Winslow arrived, his family consisted of himself, his wife, Elizabeth, and three other persons. His wife died about three months after the landing. In May, following, he married Susanna, widow of William White, and mother of Peregrine. This was the first marriage solemnized in the Colony. One of his first duties after the landing of the Pilgrims was to visit the Indians." "When the Sachem of the Wampanoags, Massasoit, first made his appearance, and through a messenger invited an interview with the settlers, Mr. Winslow was deputed by Gov. Carver to meet him; and he voluntarily placed himself as a hostage in the hands of the Indians, while their chief, Massasoit, held his conference with the Governor. He was treated by the Indians on a kind of bread, called by them

Maquim, and the spawn of shads and musty acorns boiled. They were lodged in the open fields; for houses they had none." In the words of Winslow, upon his meeting Massasoit, the chief, after his welcome: "He lighted tobacco for us and fell to discoursing of England and the King's Majesty, marvelling that he would live without a wife. Late it grew, but victuals he had none. So we desired to go to rest. He laid us on the bed with himself and his wife, they at one end and we at the other, it being only planks, laid a foot from the ground, and a thin mat upon them. Two more of his chiefmen, for want of room, pressed by and upon us, so we were worse weary of our lodging than of the journey. The next day, being Thursday, many of the Sachems or petty governors came to see us, and many of their men, also. There they went to their manner of games for skins and knives." "There we challenged them to shoot for skins, but they durst not only, they desired to see one of us, too, shoot at a mark, who shooting with hail shot, they wondered to see the mark so full of holes." "About one o'clock Massasoit brought two fishes that he had shot. These being boiled, there were at least forty looked for share in them, the most eat of them. This meal, the only one we had in two nights and a day, and had not one of us brought a partridge, we had taken our journey fasting. Very importunate he was to have us stay with him longer, but we desired to spend the Sabbath at home, and feared we should be light-headed for want of sleep, for what with bad lodging, the savages barbarous singing, (for they use to sing themselves asleep), lice, and fleas within doors, and mosquitos without, we could hardly sleep all the time of our being there; we much fearing that if we should stay any longer, we should not be able to recover home, for want of strength." "This narrative gives us glimpses of the hospitality, and also the poverty of the Indians. They gladly entertained strangers with the best they could afford, but it is familiar to them to

endure long and almost complete abstinence of food." This visit resulted in friendship from the tribe to the Colony." Mr. Winslow's next journey was by sea to the mouth of Kennebec River, Me., to procure bread from fishing vessels. He obtained a small supply, which amounted to one quarter of a pound a day for each person till the next harvest. One other visit of the founder of Marshfield made to the Indians, I will here give as the facts acquaint us with the people with whom our forefathers were thrown.

In the spring of the following year Mr. Winslow made a second visit to Massasoit, on account of his sickness, the particular circumstances of which are given in his own words: "News came to us that Massasoit was like to die. Now it being a commendable manner of the Indians, when any especially of note are dangerously sick, for all that profess friendship to them to visit them in their extremity, either in persons or else to send some acceptable persons to them; therefore, it was thought meet to bring a good and warranted action, that as we had ever professed friendship, so we should now maintain the same by observing their laudable custom. Gov. Bradford laid this service upon myself, and fitted me with some cordials to administer to the chief. At length, when we came thither (to the chief's habitation) we found the house so full of men as we could scarce get in, though they used the best diligence to make way for us. They were in the midst of their charms for him, making such a hellish noise as it distempered us that were well, and, therefore, unlike to ease him that were sick.

"About him were six or eight women, who chafed his arms, legs and thighs, to keep heat in him. When they had made an end of their charming, one told him that his friends, the English, were come to see him. Having understanding left, but his sight was wholly gone, he asked who was come; they told him Winslow. He desired to speak to me. When I came to him, and they told him of it, he put forth

his hand to me, which I took, then he said twice, 'Keen Winslow—Oh, Winslow, I shall never see thee again!'

"Then I called Hobbamock and desired him to tell Massasoit that the Governor hearing of his sickness was sorry of the same and though by reason of many businesses he could not come himself, yet he sent me with such things for him, as he thought most likely to do him good in this extremity, and whereof, if he please to take, I would presently give him; which he desired, and having a confection of many comfortable conserves on the point of my knife, I gave him some, which I could scarcely get through his teeth. When it was dissolved in his mouth he swallowed the juice of it, whereat those that were about him much rejoiced, saying he had not swallowed anything in two days before.

"Then I desired to see his mouth, which was exceedingly furred, and his tongue swelled in such a manner, as it was not possible for him to eat such meat as they had, his passage being stopped up. Then I washed his mouth and scraped his tongue and got abundance of corruption out of the same. After which I gave him more of the confection, which he swallowed with more readiness. Then desiring to drink, I dissolved some of it in water and gave him thereof. Within half an hour this wrought a great alteration in him in the eyes of all that beheld him. Presently after his sight began to come to him, I gave him more."

He sent one of the chief's messengers home for some more medicine. He made some broth.

"After the broth being boiled, I strained it through my handkerchief and gave him at least a pint, which he drank and liked it very well. After this his sight mended more and more. That morning he caused me to spend in going from one to another, amongst those that were sick in the town, requesting me to wash their mouths, also, and give to each of them some of the same I gave him, saying, 'that they were good folk.' This pains I took with willingness, though it were much offensive to me."



"The messengers were now returned, but finding his stomach come to him, he would not have the chickens they brought killed, but kept them for breed; neither durst we give him physic, which was then sent because his body was so much altered since our instructions; neither saw we any need, not doubting his recovery if he were careful. Many whilst we were there came to see him; some by their report, from a place not less than a hundred miles. Upon this his recovery he brake forth into these speeches: 'Now I see the English are my friends and love me.'

"Whilst we were there our entertainment exceeded all other strangers. At our coming away, he called Hobbsmock to him and privately revealed the plot of the Massacheuseucks (another tribe) against Master Weston's Colony, and so against us. But he would neither join therein, nor give away to any of his. With this he charged him to acquaint me by the way, that I might inform the Governor. Being fitted for our return, we took leave of him, who returned many thanks to our Governor, and also to ourselves for our labor and love, the like did all that were about him. So we departed."

If his successors, his sons Alexander and brother, Phillip—especially the latter—had continued those friendly relations that Massasoit had so grandly begun, there would not have been those terrible Indian wars that followed. Not until after Edward Winslow and his Mayflower associates had passed away and beyond, were the later colonists troubled.

Winslow returned to England in three years after landing on our shores, for the purpose of acquainting the people in England of the progress of the Pilgrims here, and also in procuring such supplies as the colonists needed.

He remained in England about six months, and brought back with him a good supply of clothing, and the first neat cattle ever brought into New England. This fixes the date



of the first importation of neat cattle, three heifers and a bull being brought over at this time. The settlers were destitute of milk the first four years. The first notice of horses is in 1644, twenty-four years after our Forefathers landed, and eight years after Winslow settled in Marshfield.

In a letter to a friend, Winslow says in regard to the friendly relations with the Indians: "We have found the Indians very faithful to their covenant of peace with us, very loving and ready to pleasure us. We often go to them and they come to us. Some of us have been fifty miles by land in the country with them, the occasions and relations whereof you shall understand by our general and more full declaration of such things as are worth the noting. Yes, it hath pleased God so to possess the Indians with a fear of us and love unto us, that not only the greatest King amongst them, called Massasoyt, but also all the princes and peoples round about us, have either made suit to us, or been glad of any occasion to make peace with us; so that seven of them at once have sent their messengers to us to that end. They willingly yielded to be under the protection and subject to our sovereign lord King James. The following is the Oath of Allegiance these princes and so called Savages took: 'Know all men by these presents, that we whose names are underwritten, do acknowledge ourselves to be loyal subjects of King James, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. In witness whereof and as a testimonial of the same, we have subscribed our names or marks as followeth:

'Ohquamchud,	Chickatabak,
'Cownacome,	Quadaquina,
'Obbatinnua,	Huttmoiden,
'Caunbatant,	Appannon.' "

Our Pilgrim townsman further says in regard to food: "For fish and fowl we have great abundance. Fresh cod in the summer is but coarse meat with us. Our bay is full

of lobsters all the summer and affordeth variety of other fish. In September we can take a hoggshead of eels in a night, with small labor and can dig them out of their beds all winter. We have mussels at our doors. Oysters we have none near, but we can have them brought by the Indians when we will. All the spring time the Earth sendeth forth naturally very good salted herbs. Here are grapes, white and red, and very sweet and strong also; strawberries, raspberries, &c, plums of three sorts, red and damask. Single but very sweet indeed." Hence it will be seen that our Pilgrim ancestors of Marshfield did not suffer for want of natural food. It was only for two or three years after the Pilgrims landed in Plymouth, before habitations were erected to any extent, and corn had not time to be grown and accumulate that the Pilgrim fathers and mothers suffered. The famine was in 1623. The only thing they wanted thereafter was men to enlarge their settlements and help grow their crops and fill their graineries in anticipation of drouths that might come. All of these conditions were at last fulfilled, for our Pilgrim ancestors were made of different material from those who visited Jamestown, Virginia, fourteen years earlier. The latter were simply adventurers, who did not come to this country to stay, but came for the love of novelty and for what they could get. The result was that Virginia did not grow and thrive as here, nor did other parts of the country visited earlier, as at St. Augustine, Florida. The settlers there were not made of the stuff that constituted the makeup of our Pilgrim fathers. We had some adventurers, of course, among our Forefathers, but by far the greater party of them came here for more liberty, not more liberty for licentiousness and evil, but that liberty to believe and act up to their highest convictions in their religion and everyday life, and they were also imbued with a purpose to plant a colony founded upon justice, industry, integrity and progressive culture in all things towards the

improvement of every man, woman and child on our shores, and that was the key that gave the impetus to that steady and marvelous growth to our Colony, and the sending forth in the course of years throughout the length and breadth of our land, pioneers full of the strenuous life and New England thrift, who constituted the full-fledged Yankee, known far and wide over this hemisphere and the old, as the embodiment of that enterprise and progress developed in the Nineteenth Century in the United States of America.

In 1636 or 1637 Edward Winslow moved to Marshfield and settled in that portion of the town distant about a third of a mile east of the present Winslow House and called by Gov. Winslow the "Careswell Estate," after some place in England with which he was familiar. His brother, Kenelm, the record says, "lived on a neck of land lying between Green's Harbor River and South River." Five years afterwards an assistant to Gov. Winslow, named Wm. Thomas, bought a piece of land adjoining his, built his habitation, and settled there. This estate, a couple of centuries later, Daniel Webster purchased, and not only this estate, but the Winslow estate, and thus the illustrious statesman became the possessor and occupant of both these historic estates. The "Careswell Estate" of Winslow extended to the southernly side of Green's Harbor River. He built, it is claimed, the finest house in the Colony on this estate, but it is not in existence to-day. The house on the estate at present, known as the Winslow House, built several generations later by Dr. Isaac Winslow, is very ancient, being one of the oldest in town. It is a large, square, Colonial house, and has the appearance of having been a century ago one of the finest mansions on the South Shore. This house, like other large mansions of its time, has a secret chamber, the entrance to which is by a sliding panel over one of the wide fireplaces. It is related that one of the Winslows took refuge in this hiding place after the house had been surrounded by a body

of patriots. "In the room connected with the secret place, there was at the time a woman in bed with a new-born child. The Colonists, with a delicate forbearance, made but a superficial search of her apartments, and so the royalist in hiding escaped discovery." Edward Winslow, our Forefather of Marshfield, was chosen Governor of Plymouth Colony several times, and served in that office also after he became a citizen of Marshfield. Marshfield was well represented among the leading officials of the Colony in Colonial days, Edward Winslow serving as Governor in its earlier period and his son, Josiah Winslow, a resident of Marshfield, serving later.

Gov. Ed. Winslow did not die in Marshfield. He was sent back to England four times after his arrival here in the *Mayflower*, by the Governors in power, on important business for the Colony, as he was the most able man among the Pilgrims in that line. He was sent on his last voyage across in 1646, to explain disputes arising from religious controversies in three colonies, complained of by one Samuel Gorton. While he was abroad, Cromwell, who thought well of him, appointed him first Commissioner of the Commonwealth of England to superintend the English expedition to the West Indies, whereby Cromwell was anxious to gain possession of one of the islands. "During Mr. Winslow's voyage to the Indies, before the arrival of the vessel at its destination, he contracted a fever, and died and was buried with all the honors of war at sea, in May, 1655, aged 61. Over the spot the fleet fired 42 guns as a salute of high rank." He was the youngest of three great Pilgrim leaders. It is his son's, Gov. Josiah Winslow's monument that we see in the Winslow burying ground near Webster's tomb. Edward Winslow's widow survived him 25 years. She died at Marshfield in 1680 and was buried in the Winslow burying ground, so called. She lived long enough to see her son Governor. Resolved White, one of her elder children, a brother of Peregrine, was living in 1690, and Peregrine White lived until 1704.

## CHAPTER IX.

### *The Menu of Our Forefathers.*

Goodwin says: "Tea and coffee were unknown to our Forefathers. Beer was a common beverage. The potato was unknown to them. Neither potatoes (white Irish potatoes), tea or coffee were used for more than a century after the Pilgrims landed." "The breakfast of our Forefathers in Marshfield, and throughout the Colony generally, among the common classes, was milk and hasty pudding, or rye pudding and bread, with pea or bean soup or stew, flavored with pork, stewed peas, squash, turnips, parsnips and onions. Fresh fish was common, but beef and mutton were very seldom seen. There was plenty of poultry and pork. Butter and cheese, after the first few years, were plenty, except among the very poor. Children usually had milk, while the youths drank water or the beer of the elders. At no time after the famine of 1623 was there a lack of good food among the Colonists." "As tea and coffee were unknown to the Forefathers, the many Delft ware tea and coffee pots preserved by collectors of Pilgrim relics are to be regarded an anachronisms, and especially so at the time of the Mayflower voyage; earthen tableware was not in common use." "It seems pretty certain that the first comers brought no earthen tableware, and required very little in after years, although they had earthen bowls, jugs, pots and pans. For elegant ware, pewter was much employed, and is frequently mentioned in the wills and schedules of both of the Colonies. Stout wooden plates called 'trenchers' were used, as also wooden bowls." "Table forks were also unknown to the English tables in the Mayflower's day, though large forks were used in cooking." "Tom Coryat had about

that time brought a fork from Italy to London, and he ate with it at a public table, the people used to crowd around to see the comical performance. For many years afterward the table-fork was regarded as a curiosity, much as chopsticks now are, and its use was considered ridiculous, as a freak of effeminacy by Beaumont and Fletcher and by rare Ben. Johnson." The diner (in Marshfield) in those early days was accustomed to hold his meat with the left fingers while he cut it into pieces which could be conveyed to the mouth by the knife or the fingers. This process required much wiping of the hands, for which purpose there was a plentiful supply of napkins. "In some families saffron was much used on meats, and hence the left-hand fingers of such people often acquired a yellow color. Probably not one of the Pilgrims ever saw a fork used at tables."



## CHAPTER X.

### 1663. *Town Record Selections.*

“At the town meeting there was a contribution for the relief of Ed. Bumpus to 6 bushels of corn of which Major Josias Winslow furnished 2 bush.—Jos. Beadle 1 bush.—John Dingley  $\frac{1}{2}$  bush.—Mr. Bourne and Bradford 1 bush.—John Rogers a bushel—Josiah Keen half a bush.—Ensign Eames  $\frac{1}{2}$  bush. and these persons to be answered at the next town’s rate.”

“At said town meeting the inhabitants present have agreed as to the maintenance of Rev. Samuel Arnold in the work of the ministry, that for the present year that this shall be raised by way of rate; viz: thirty-five pounds shall be raised upon the estates of the whole town equally as upon other town rates, and the other five pounds to be paid particularly by the church and the one half being £17—10<sup>s</sup> to be paid betwixt this and the first of March next, and the other to be paid at or before the 15th of November in the year, 1664, and these payments to be made in corn, cattle, butter or English goods at current prices.”

1664.

“And further the town hath empowered their Selectmen that now are or hereafter shall be to warn any that judge to be idle or disorderly persons out of the town and in case any inhabitant shall entertain any such persons that he knows hath been so warned away by them, although but for shorter time he shall be liable to the penalty expressed.”

1665. [Indian conveyance or grant.]

“Whereas I Josias Winslow at the request of this town of Marshfield did in their behalf purchase of the Indian Sachem, Josiah F. O. Chickatabut, the lands of this town



which is mentioned, (in a deed from him to us of above date). Know all men to whom these presents shall come that I do by these presents resign up the land here above mentioned unto the proprietors of this town and their heirs forever.

In witness whereof I have set thereunto my hand the twenty-fifth of June, 1666.

Signed, Josias Winslow."

"Ensign Mark Eames was chosen by the town to deliver to Robert Sprout a parcel of cloth in his hands to clothe Hannah Bumpus, and Lieut. Peregrine White shall be responsible for it out of the ten pounds that he hath of Hannah Bumpus in his hand, and also the said Lieut. White doth supply her two pair of shoes of the same account."

"At the said town meeting the town hath disposed of Hannah Bumpus with her father's consent to Robert Sprout for to be his servant for three years, and in case that the said Hannah shall be with child before this time that then the town will take care for her and at the end of three years' service will receive her if it be required."

"Anthony Snow did give and grant one half an acre of ground to the town for a Burying place, which land lies upon the northerly side of the highway near the meeting house and next the land of Timothy Williamson."

"At town meeting the inhabitants, have agreed that as to all future town meeting, that they shall begin at ten of the clock, and so to continue from March to November six hours by an hour glass, all the town meetings in that time of the year, and from November to March in that interim, to continue but four hours by a glass, and what is acted in that space of time to be owned as town acts and the other time beyond this of the same days any actings to be invalid."

"Eleven pounds sterling was voted to be paid for support of Mr. Bulkley in wheat, pork or butter."

1669.

"The town hath voted to make 2 rates (taxes) one for the

town and country rates, and also to make the minister's rate."

"It was also agreed that the Meeting House, (near Winslow's burying ground,) shall be enlarged and covered with boards and shingles; and they have voted that Maj. Josiah Winslow, Jos. Beadle and Wm. Ford, are to agree with workman for doing the work, and to be paid by town rate."

1670.

"It was agreed in town meeting whereas a payment for the meeting house as to repairing of it, one fourth part of thirty-four pounds was to be paid in pork, the town shall pay in lieu of the pork, one-half in wheat at four shillings and sixpence a bushel, or butter at five pence, half penny a pound and the other half in Indian corn, and as for the other fourth part, which is to be paid in beef, they have ordered it shall be paid in Indian corn, unless there be paid a barrel of beef by one person."

"Also agreed that Mr. Winslow, Beadle and W. Ford, are to agree with workmen for the making the pews in the meeting house, to be paid for the next fall; and also the said persons are to seat the persons at their discretion."

"The inhabitants have agreed that the town will pay for the killing of wolves 30s a wolf; also that J. Dingley—J. Snow—Jona. Winslow and W. Winslow have agreed to make a sufficient wolf trap, and to keep it sufficiently tended."

"Also agreed to make a sufficient Pound; viz: Thirty foot square, six rails high, squared corner posts, every top rail pinned, with a sufficient gate, a staple and padlock."

"At town meeting, July 29, 1672—it was voted that the whole town shall jointly pay to Mr. Arnold (the minister) rates as they pay all other town rates (taxes) without any disproportion betwixt the church and the town."

1673.

*Salary of Town Officers:*

Treasurer, £10—1s—0; about \$33.50 colonial currency.

Chief Marshal, £2—17s—4d; about \$9.55 colonial currency.

Deputy Marshal, £1—0—0; about \$3.33 1-3 colonial cur-

Deputy, £1—0—0; about \$3.33 1-3 colonial currency.  
rency.

Grand Juryman, 0—15s—0; about \$2.50 colonial currency.

For Killing 5 Wolves 0—31s—0; about \$5.16 2-3 colonial  
currency.

For Charge Meeting House, 0—15—0; about \$2.50 colonial  
currency.

For The Raters (tax gatherers) 0—10s—0; about \$1.66 2-3  
colonial currency.

For The Constables, 0—10s—0; about \$1.66 2-3 colonial  
currency.

A Total of \$63.21 2-3

## CHAPTER XI.

### *Preparations for King Phillip's War.*

"In the same year the town agreed that in reference to an order from the General Court held the sixteenth September, 1673, to raising four troopers from this town; so it is that John Foster, Jacob Dingley—Jos. Waterman and Daniel G. White, have voluntary tendered themselves to serve as troops for the ensuing year for this town, and it is voted by the town that the pistols which belonged to the troopers formerly, that now are put into these troopers hands, are by them to be repaired and to be answered to them at the next town rate and the aforesaid troopers at the end of the year shall deliver them up to the Town's order in sufficient 'kelter' for service." "Also agreed to appoint a jury, and sworn by the governor, to lay out all the highways of the township. Lieut. Peregrine White and others served."

1675.

"Agreed by the town that the inhabitants are willing that Isaac Billington and his family, being distressed by reason of the late trouble with the Indians, this winter to reside in this town." "Also that the inhabitants gave in the amounts of the damages they had suffered by the late war with the Indians as to the loss besides, horses, saddles and guns and arms, which was to be sent to the committee at Plymouth by Ensign Mark Eames."

"Also the inhabitants voted that there be three watches in the town, one at the Governor's (Winslow) residence, one at the Mill, and one at Thos. Macomber; and they have also voted Wm. Ford—Isaac Little and John Carver be added to Lieut. Peregrine White and Ensign Mark Eames as to the ordering the watches to be equally divided and disposed for

the town's safety as to their watching and warding as these persons aforesaid do order according to their best discretion."

1676.

"The inhabitants have voted at the town meeting that half the barrel of powder at the Governor's, which belongs to the town, as also that remnant or parcel of powder which belongs to the town which is at William Ford sons, and the lead of the town, which is at the Governor's, that that ammunition shall be equally shared to the respective garrisons of the town, and to be delivered to the masters of the said garrisons and that according to the number of men in them, and these masters of garrisons, to be responsible to the town, according to their proportions of the town rate, and Mr. Nath. Thomas and Timothy Williamson are to deliver the ammunition to the respective masters of the garrisons."

1676.

"The inhabitants agreed in town meeting that they would have twenty guns sent for the town's use, and that they shall be twenty Indians sent for from the southward to assist the town in sending forth against the Indian enemy, and to be satisfied for according to agreement."

"Also the inhabitants voted that twenty-five pounds for the twenty guns, formerly mentioned, and powder and bullets to the value of the sum of twenty-five pounds for the supply of the town; and it is the town's desire that the Honored Governor would be pleased to procure these guns and ammunition for the town's use."

"Also agreed that if any of the soldiers that this town shall see cause to send forth against the Indian enemy that their wounded men & the families belonging to them shall be taken care for with suitable supplies as their case may require by the whole town."

"Also agreed to make two rates, viz: fourteen pounds a money rate, and the town's rate being £264—for de-

fraying the charges of the war. £14 being part of the gross sum before specified, as also for received £7-13s and 40 shillings in money borrowed to pay the soldiers which went with Capt. Pierce all these are deducted out of the £264 above said."

1679.

"The inhabitants of the town agreed to pay Rev. Saml Arnold fifty pounds the ensuing year, and one half the fifty pounds to be paid in Corn and Cattle, and the other half to be paid in wheat, or barley or pork or beef or butter, or cheese or money according to the times of the year formerly specified in March and the beginning of October."



## CHAPTER XII.

### *Selectmen's Power.—The Indians and Other Matters.*

In a very old memoir of the Colony of New Plymouth, by *Baylies*, we find in 1669 that the office of a Selectman was a high office. He wielded a deal of power. They were authorized to issue warrants of *capias* and attachment in His Majesty's name. *Single persons* were forbidden to live by themselves, or in any family excepting such as should be approved by the Selectmen, and in case they refused obedience to the order of Selectmen, they were to be summoned to court and proceeded against.

"There shall be three courts of the Selectmen in a year."

"The Selectmen were this year empowered to try all questions between the English and the Indians excepting Capital and land titles. They were authorized to take a Constable and repair to any house or place where they might suspect that any slothful did lurk at home or get together in Companies to neglect the public worship of God, or profane the Lord's day and finding any disorder to return the names of the offenders to the next Court and also to give notice of any particular miscarriage."

"The powers and duties of the Selectmen appear to have been of a high character. They were not only the chief executive and police officers of the several towns, charged with a general superintendence of town affairs, and with a general oversight of the morals and manners of the inhabitants, but they were judicial officers and were constituted a court. They united the functions of the modern justice of the peace (now trial justice) and partially those of the old county courts of common pleas, with a jurisdiction limited to the towns. This judicial power was con-

ferred in consequence of the great inconvenience which the people of the remote towns suffered from being obliged to attend courts at Plymouth in small cases." "They united the functions of the Roman censor with those of the modern police officer."

In the same memoir we find that in 1643 great precaution was taken that the *Indians* should not be cheated of their lands or other property. "It was enacted that it should be holden unlawful and of dangerous consequence, as it hath been our constant custom from our very first beginning that no person should purchase, rent or hire any lands, herbage, wood, or timber of the indians but by the magistrate's consent. For every transgression £5 was forfeited for every acre so purchased, rented or levied, and five times the value of the wood & the timber to the Colony's use."

"In 1660 it was enacted that this law should be so interpreted as to prevent any from taking land as a gift. By these laws every practicable precaution was taken to secure the rights of the Indians and to prevent the improper and deceptive practices of individuals."

The same memoir continues that "In 1658 the crime of adultery appears to be first noticed in the laws. The punishment of this offence was two whippings, once while the court before whom the offending party was convicted should be in session, and once at any other time which they should direct, and the party so convicted was to wear two capital letters, A. D., cut in cloth and sewed on the uppermost garment, on their arm or back, and if they removed the letters they were again to be publicly whipped. [In the Massachusetts Colony, a red letter "A" was obliged to be worn on the breast for this offence, and Hawthorne's romance entitled the "Scarlet Letter" was founded on this requirement and fact.]

"The court had previously enacted in 1645 that fornication should be punished with whipping, a fine of £1 or three

days' imprisonment, at the pleasure of the court. If, however, the offending parties are or will be married, then the fine of £1 for both only and three days' imprisonment."

Also in 1655, card playing was punished by a fine of 50s. "Servants or children playing at Cards, dice or other unlawful games for the first offence to be corrected by their parents or masters, for the second to be publicly whipped. The constables were ordered to return the names of those who should play or sleep or smoke tobacco about the meeting house on the Lord's day. June, 1674, horse racing was ordered to be punished by the stocks, or by a fine."

In 1646 the smoking of tobacco in the streets or about hay stacks or barn, or public places, was prohibited. Baylies continues by saying that "by a law of 1673 none were permitted to keep above three horses on the commons. One having £20 rateable estate was permitted to keep one; £40 two; £60 three. Any keeping more it was made lawful for any one who was trespassed upon by such horses to kill them, and also to do it in case of trespass on their corn, or other enclosed lands or meadows after warning them."

"In 1666 no horses were allowed to be carried out of any township in the government without the consent of the governor under a penalty of £5."

"Plymouth Colony had been settled seventeen years, Massachusetts Colony, seven, Connecticut Colony one or two, and New Haven Colony was scarcely settled when these Colonies began seriously to consider the benefit of a Union for the common defence. Articles of Confederation between these plantations or Colonies were drawn up in 1643.

"Wherefore it is fully agreed & concluded between the parties and jurisdictions above named, and they jointly & severally do by these presents agree and conclude that they all be & henceforth be called by the name of the United Colonies of New England."

"It was agreed, however, that each Colony be forever

under the government of each separate Colony. 'But the Union of the Colonies is simply for Common defence in case of war or conflict with outside parties and the expense of any war be borne by the United Colonies.'

"There were six Commissioners of the Union appointed, as follows: From Plymouth, Ed. Winslow (founder of Marshfield) and Wm. Collier; from Massachusetts, John Winthrop and Thos. Dudley; from Connecticut, George Fanwick and Ed. Hopkins; from New Haven, Thos. Eaton and Thos. Gregson." And thus early in the days of the Pilgrims an embryo Union was formed as an example to the patriots of the Revolution, nearly a century and a half later, when a Union of thirteen Colonies or States was formed.

*Gov. Josiah Winslow and King Philips' War.*

It was a great and bloody war in Pilgrim days in which our distinguished townsman and Colonist who was chosen commander-in-chief of the New England forces, and other townsmen were engaged. It was especially disappointing to the Colonist that a son of the chief, Massasoit, whose father was so kind and hospitable to the Pilgrims and whose life Gov. Ed. Winslow saved, should leave a son whose life seemed to be spent in an attempt to exterminate every white man on the New England soil.

Philip and Alexander, the sons of Massasoit, chief of the Wampanoags, did not like their Indian names, and dropped them for the heroic names about which they had been told. Alexander, the elder, at the decease of Massasoit filled his father's place as chief, and after some secret plans against the Colonists were discovered, he was arrested and imprisoned. This, it is said, so greatly mortified him that it brought on a fever, from which he died.

His brother Philip, his successor, was greatly incensed against the Colonists at the treatment of Alexander, and this was one of the incentives that brought about the war.

He was especially angered against our townsman, Winslow, then governor of the Colony, for the seizure of his brother Alexander, so much so that during the war the governor and commander-in-chief felt it wise to "send his wife and children away from their home in Marshfield to Salem, and to put his house in a complete state of defense."

Gov. Winslow had a large territory to cover in the war with King Philip, extending to Mount Hope (now Bristol, R. I.), to Swansea, Brookfield, and even to Maine. King Philip had succeeded in interesting many other tribes in his attempt to exterminate the whites. I will give here an instance of the dogged determination of King Philip and his followers with which our townsman had to deal:

"In Brookfield," says Baylies, "the English were about to treat with the Indians for peace, and they appointed a place of meeting. Captains Wheeler and Hutchinson both proceeded to the appointed place, accompanied by the horse and some of the principal inhabitants of Brookfield. Finding no Indians at the appointed place, they determined to proceed to their town. So unsuspecting were the inhabitants of any danger, that they went without their arms. Having marched four or five miles farther, they came to a place called Momimimissit, where, on one side, a high hill rose almost perpendicularly from the road; the other was skirted by an impassable swamp. In this narrow pass they were assailed by three hundred Indians, who lay in ambush; the savages rose from their lurking places, and poured upon the devoted English a destructive fire. Eight were killed instantly, and three mortally wounded, amongst whom was Captain Hutchinson. Captain Wheeler's horse was killed under him, and he received a shot through his body, but his life was saved by the desperate courage of his son, who, seeing his perilous situation, notwithstanding his own arm had been broken by a bullet, dismounted from his horse, upon which, disabled as he was, he contrived to place his

father, and then, catching another, whose owner had been killed, he mounted, and both escaped; and afterwards recovered of their wounds."

"The whole road from the place where they had been ambushed, to Brookfield, was waylaid by the enemy, but one of the inhabitants being acquainted with a path through the woods but little travelled, led the remnant of this unfortunate company in safety through this path to Brookfield, which they had scarcely reached, when the Indians, fresh from the slaughter, rushed into the town, breathing threats of extermination.

"The inhabitants had been alarmed, and had collected for the purpose of making a better defence into one house, where they were joined by Captain Wheeler and the remnant of his company. The Indians, after vainly endeavoring to cut off the retreat of five or six men who had been to a neighboring house to secure some property, and killing one Samuel Pritchard, instantly fired the town, and collected their whole force to attack the house to which the English had retired.

"The only mode by which the house could be fortified was by piling large logs on the outside, and hanging up feather beds against the walls within. By these means the force of the bullets was deadened. For two whole days the Indians continued to assail the house, constantly pouring in a fire of musketry. Fastening firebrands and pieces of cloth, which had been immersed in burning brimstone, to long poles, they vainly essayed to set it on fire. They kindled a large heap of combustibles directly against it, which compelled the English to leave it, to draw water from the well, which was in a small yard, surrounded by a board fence, and open to the enemy's fire, yet they succeeded in extinguishing the flames, and only one man was wounded.

"Baffled in every attempt, the Indians at last filled a cart with hemp, flax, and other combustibles, and connecting a



number of poles together, began to push it backward against the house, but this fire was quenched by a sudden shower of rain. The scene was terrific. The Indians were transported with rage. Their faces hideously caricatured with paint, their passionate gestures, and the wild and furious expression of their countenances, after the repeated obstacles which had prevented their purpose, all conspired to excite the unfortunate inmates of the house with the most gloomy and fearful apprehensions, but their courage never quailed.

"The Indians offered no quarter, and they disdained to ask it, but with stout hearts stood steadily to the contest. Within the house were seventy souls, and what added to the horror of the situation, many of them were women and children. At last, by one of those chances which sometimes occur when all hopes of relief seem to be terminated, they were succored by a company of English from Boston, who marched to their relief, and they were relieved."

The tribe of Narragansetts joined King Philip, but after our English soldiers enter their country, made peace with them, and among the articles of the treaty was the following:

"VI. The said gentlemen in the behalf of the governments to which they do belong, do engage to the said sachems and their subjects, that if they or any of them shall seize and bring into either the English governments (Colonies), or to Mr. Smith, inhabitants of Narragansett, Philip sachem alive, he or they so delivering shall receive for their pains, forty trucking cloth coats; in case they bring his head they shall have twenty like good coats paid them; for every living subject of said Philip's so delivered, the deliverer shall receive two coats, and for every head one coat, as a gratuity for their service herein, making it appear to satisfaction, that the heads or persons are belonging to the enemy, and that they are of their seizure."

The generalship of our townsman and commander-in-chief was strikingly manifested by the victory gained over King



Philip and his warriors, although it was a long and cruel conflict, extending over a large territory of New England, and causing the destruction of a large amount of property, including six hundred houses, and leaving the Colonists with a heavy debt. The fate of King Philip is too familiar in history to repeat here. One act of the Colonists, however, in connection with this war, leaves a stain on their reputation. King Philip's boy, an only child, was captured, sent to Bermuda, and sold into slavery. This was the last of the good chief Massasoit's progeny.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### *Dress of the Colonists.—Scolding Women.*

Some of the people in the Colony by 1650 began to dress more extravagantly than the magistrates dared to have them, and the General Court passed laws to prohibit the luxury and extravagance of dress. H. M. Earle says: "An estate of at least £200, or \$666.66 2-3, was held necessary in order to allow any freedom of costly or gay attire. They also prohibited the wearing of gold, silver or thread lace, all cut works, embroideries or needlework in the form of caps, bands or rails; gold and silver girdles, hat bands, belts, ruffs or beaver hats; knots of ribbon; broad shoulder bands, silk roses; double ruffles or capes; gold and silver buttons; silk points, silk and tiffany hoods, and scarfs. Vain offenders against these sumptuary laws were presented by the score and were tried and fined.

"Women in the Colony who were given to scolding, etc., were punished. May 15th, 1672, the General Court of Massachusetts ordered the scolds and railers should be gagged or set in a ducking stool and dipped over head and ears three times."

Miss Earl gives an account in Virginia of this ducking process, in a letter to Governor Endicott in 1634, as follows: "The day afore yesterday I saw this punishment given to one Betsey, wife of John Tucker, who by ye violence of her tongue, had made his house and ye neighborhood uncomfortable. She was taken to ye pond where I am sojourning by ye officer who was joined by ye magistrate and ye minister Mr. Cotton, who had frequently admonished her and a large number of people. They had machine for ye purpose, it belonged to the Parish & which I was told had

been so used three times this summer. It is a platform with 4 small rollers or wheels & two upright posts between which works a lever by a rope fastened to its shorter or heavier end. At the end of ye longer arm is fixed a stool upon which sd Betsey was fastened by cord her gown tied fast around her feete. The machine was then moved up to ye edge of ye pond, ye Rope was slackened by ye officer & ye woman was allowed to go down under ye water for ye space of half a minute. Betsey had a stout stomach, & would not yield until she had allowed herself to be ducked 5 several times. At length she cried piteously: 'Let me go! Let me go! by God's help I 'll sin no more.' Then they drew back ye machine, untied the Ropes & let her walk home in her wetted clothes, a hopefully penitent woman."

## CHAPTER XV.

### *Our Pilgrim Fathers, as Compared to Puritans of Salem and Boston.*

Our Forefathers in Plymouth, Duxbury, Marshfield, Scituate, and other towns less prominent in the Colony, were much more humane in the treatment of the inhabitants within their precincts than were the Puritans in Boston and vicinity. In the latter region the poor Quakers, the most harmless and upright classes of citizens in Massachusetts, were most barbarously treated, and Governor Winthrop and Governor Endicott (especially the latter) proved themselves to be the most despotic rulers in their treatment of the Quakers.

There were Mary Dyer and others, who were brave enough to declare their honest convictions, hung on Boston Common because they would not lie and declare that they would give up their Quaker principles. And again, Anna Hutchinson, one of the most intelligent and clear-headed women of Puritan days, was banished from the home she and her husband had established in the town of Boston because, forsooth, she did not believe in the rigid doctrine of the Puritans, and publicly proclaimed her dissensions.

Again, Roger Williams, the father of Rhode Island, banished from the Massachusetts Colony because he would persist in advocating his principles, to the dislike of the Puritans; and what did the leaders of our good Pilgrim Colony do? Instead of rushing him out of the Colony, when he entered their midst, they offered him a home among them. But he would not accept, and journeyed at last to Rhode

Island and established a colony at Providence, to which he gave the name.

To be sure, there were some Quakers among them they did not like, but none did they ever punish by death, nor did they ever hang a witch, unlike the Puritans in the Massachusetts Colony, who seemed to delight in hanging and torturing these poor, innocent and harmless victims of a superstitious and bigoted Colony, convicted on the evidence largely of hysterical and nervous children.

These persecuted people left England, as did our Pilgrim Fathers, for New England to have larger liberty in the enjoyment of their religious and honest convictions, and so did the Puritans, but they would not tolerate or allow anybody else that same privilege who did not agree with them.

## CHAPTER XV.

### *Incidents Among the Colonists.*

In 1635 there was a great tempest in the Colony. Mr. Thatcher, who was at one time a citizen of Marshfield, was in a vessel off Cape Ann with his cousin, John Avery, and their wives and children, when a storm overtook them on Friday night. Saturday found the wretched people clinging to a rock, now called 'Avery's woe,' and there during the day the survivors lovingly comforted each other, as the waves with terrible deliberation singled out their victims. That night the only survivors were Thatcher, who had reached a rocky islet with his bruised wife, whom he dragged from the surges. A goat had also reached the rock, and a cheese, with some few trifles, washed ashore. It was Monday afternoon before the forlorn couple were rescued.

"But few of the many thousands who pass and visit the two lighthouses on Thatcher's Island know of the terrible wreck and horrible suffering and endurance of those two survivors on that fateful rock, from whom came the name."

"In 1643 the confederacy, called "The United Colonies of New England," apportioned each town its quota of soldiers. Marshfield was to furnish two, Scituate five, Duxbury five, and other towns proportionately, according to the number of inhabitants. In 1689, the quota had changed; Plymouth only four, Scituate six, Duxbury only two, and Marshfield three. During King Philip's war Marshfield had to furnish twenty-six soldiers, Duxbury sixteen, while Plymouth furnished only thirty, to Scituate's fifty. But Marshfield furnished a commander-in-chief to all the forces in New England, Gen. Josiah Winslow.

Some of the Indians were converted to Christianity, and

they formed villages and made just laws of their own. Their form of warrants for arrests was as follows:

"I Hihoudi:

You Peter Waterman, Jeremy Wicket: Quick you take him. Fast you hold him. Straight you bring him. Before me Hihoudi."

Wolves, soon after our Forefathers settled here, became very destructive. They were attracted more than ever by the animal food introduced here and the other attractions of a settlement. So numerous did they become, that the Colony passed laws that each town should set traps to catch them. Marshfield was instructed to furnish and set two, and Scituate four.

Mr. E. E. Williamson has in his possession the original of the following document, concerning the Common in front of the Congregational church in South Marshfield, which was transferred to the town by his ancestor, Timothy Williamson, in 1663, or possibly 1665. The Lieut. White referred to is no less a personage than Peregrine White, the first born of the Pilgrims after nearing or touching our coast:

"Marshfield the 20th May 1663 [or 1665] at the town meeting, Timothy Williamson having formerly granted to the town a small parcel of ground to set the meeting house upon, and a pound to pound cattle, also for a training place which is now used accordingly, and the bounds of s'd land that he gave to the town doth by wayward along the training place, and so to run of the south side of the after corner of the meeting house, and to form the after corner of the meeting house, square to the east way of the North side, and so to the westward Corner of this training place: and the town have granted to Timothy ten acres of ground to a former grant of thirty acres, which lyes on the farr side of the South River in lieu of his grant of his to the town. At the 2nd town meeting the inhabitants have appointed Lieut.



White and William Foord Savaious to lay out the tract of land formerly and laterly granted to Timothy Williamson, which is forty acres with that which was now granted.

A true Copy Attest.

Isaac Winslow."

Comets were greatly feared by some of our ancestors, and lightning filled some with terror. The first fatal case from lightning among the inhabitants of the Colony was in July, 1658, when John Phillips was struck at Marshfield. Eight years later, Grace, wife of Mr. Phillips, and her son John were killed by lightning at or near the same place. By the same stroke, a lad named Jeremiah Phillips and William Shurtleff were also killed. Mr. Shurtleff had his child in his lap and was holding his wife by the hand to encourage her, but he alone was hurt. This storm immediately followed a fast on account of drouth and ended with a hurricane. "Prayer," the account continues, "was too efficacious. There were but five cases, however, recorded during the existence of the Colony from 1620 to 1692."

## CHAPTER XVI.

### *Habits and Customs of Our Forefathers.*

(From "History of Cape Cod.")

"The habits and customs of our forefathers and mothers in Marshfield and elsewhere in the Colony," are important in this history in showing the everyday life amongst them. Every man and woman was addressed as Goodman and Goodwife. No one in that era but the very highest classes in society, either those holding high offices or those of aristocratic birth, were given the titles of Mr. and Mrs. It was the habit in those days for the men to wear very long beards. In 1649 the custom of wearing long hair was gradually becoming a thing of the past. So bitter did the Colonists become against it, that the following edict was issued :

"Forasmuch as the wearing of long hair, after the manner of the Russians & barbarous indians, has begun to invade New England, contrary to the rule of God's word, & the commendable custom of all the godly, until within this few years, we the magistrates, who have subscribed this paper, do declare & manifest our dislike & detestation against the wearing of such long hair, as against a thing uncivil & unmanly, whereby men do deform themselves & offend sober & modest men & do corrupt good manners.'

"Subsequently, grand jurors were in duty bound, under the laws, to prevent, and the court to punish, all such offenders. Tobacco was forbidden under a penalty, and some of the prominent divines compared the smoke to the smoke of the infernal regions. But when some of the dignitaries and the clergy got into the habit of smoking the 'vile weed,' it was not long before the people at large ac-

quired the habit," and their descendants have not forgotten it to this day, the beginning of the 20th century, for millions of dollars (I do n't dare say how many) are spent in smoke to poison the air, to the disgust of the tidy housekeeper.

"Periwigs were not much worn in Pilgrim days, not coming into use until the era of the Revolution."

Freeman says: "The style of dress, as well as the manner of living was much more favorable to health than in modern times, and pulmonary affections were much less frequent than now. A young person was rarely visited with consumption. Milliners and tailors were not much in demand. The females generally, whether old or young, it has been said, were content with a homespun flannel gown for winter and wrappers for summer. The latter were without a waist and gathered at the top. For occasional dress a calico or poplin was enjoyed, sleeves short, reaching only to the elbow, with ruffles ten inches wide. Caps were seldom worn, except in full dress. Both leather and broad-cloth shoes, with high, wooden heels, covered and peaked toes turning up, were worn by females. Masks were sometimes used in cold weather in traveling far. Prunelles and brocades were a luxury, not much indulged in for a long time, and when these were once obtained, they lasted long, being transmitted from mother to daughter through successive generations.

"Very early the wardrobe of females was the subject of legislation, and excess of apparel, strange, new fashions, naked breasts and arms, and pinioned, superfluous ribbons on hair or apparel, were sufficient to subject the offender to prosecution and penalties. The men, old and young, had one coat and vest, small clothes and fur hat. Old men had also a great coat and a pair of boots reaching to the knees. Young men would have been thought effeminate had they worn overcoats. A writer familiar with the times says: 'I remember that a neighbor of my father provided

his four sons, between 19 and 30 years of age, one with a pair of boots, the second with a surtout, the third with a watch, and the fourth with a pair of silver shoe-buckles. It created a neighborhood talk, and the family were considered on the high way to insolvency.'

"The meals in those days were frugal, the course at dinner being in winter ordinarily: first, porridge, a broth with a few beans thrown in and seasoned; second, an Indian pudding with sauce, and third, boiled pork and beef, with potatoes and pumpkins. Suppers and breakfasts were usually alike, milk with toasted bread in it, or sweetened cider, hot in winter, with bread and cheese. On Sabbath mornings they indulged in chocolate sweetened with molasses, and the concomitants were pancakes, doughnuts, brown toast, or pie. They had no Sunday dinners until both meetings were over, but then, the intermission was short; after meetings, a sparerib, a stew pie, or a roast beef, goose, chicken or turkey made up the repast, with a few *et ceteras*."

We in New England in the 20th century would not consider this a bill of fare to starve upon. Many of the farmers in Marshfield and elsewhere on the shore, are working their farms on a far more scant menu, than the "poor" Pilgrim who was fortunate enough to get a dinner, supper or breakfast on Sunday or any other day, like that. But bread and milk was undoubtedly most of the year the meal of the common class. "Wheat was sown, and when harvested was used in various ways. It was ground, the meal not bolted, but simply passed through a sieve. The corn, before mills were provided, was pounded in a mortar, usually with a stone or wooden pestle. The mortar used was generally a large log, hollowed out at one end.

"The first houses had steep roofs, and generally thatched. The fireplaces were so large that children might sit within the corners and look out in the evening at the stars, through

the chimney, if they would. Logs four feet long and several feet in circumference, which required all the strength of a strong man to roll them in, were placed back, a fore-stick of corresponding dimensions was laid in front, and smaller wood was then filled in and heaped up; plenty of light wood or fat pine being at hand to revive the fire and in the evening to keep up a bright and pleasant light. Oil or candles were used only occasionally.

"The chimneys sometimes were made of layers of wood notched at the crossing, the interstices filled in with clay, and the whole interior plastered with the same. The floors were nicely protected by a fine, washed, white sand. The immense andirons, with hooks to receive the spit holding over the dripping-pan the roast, enabled the housewife to furnish, with the aid of frequent turning and basting, a dish that the epicure now covets in vain. Roasts were then roasts.

"In a few years houses of better construction began to appear—two stories in front, the roof in the rear sloped down to within six feet of the ground. The windows were supplied with hinges, opening outward, and were quite small. The glass was diamond shape, and set in sashes of lead. The dwelling houses were always so placed with front to the south, without regard to the street or road.

Everybody went to meeting in those days, however distant they resided from the place for public worship. Those who owned horses held them as justly liable to do service for any of the neighbors on meeting days, and it was no unusual thing for the owner and his wife, the one on a saddle and the other on a pillion, with perhaps a little boy or girl before the man and an infant in the woman's lap, to ride half way to the place of worship and then dismount on arriving at the halfway block and hitch the horse for the neighbors who set out on foot, walking themselves the rest of the way. Chaises or such-like vehicles were then un-

known. Travelling in stage and coaches was hardly dreamed of. Young men and maidens rarely thought of riding to meeting, even though the distance might be six or ten miles. Horses were all accustomed to pace, that they might carry the rider gently.

"The duty of the sexton then required that he should attend to the turning of the hourglass. It was to be turned at the commencement of the sermon, and the minister was expected to close his sermon at the end of the hour. If he either exceeded or fell short of that time, it was alike regarded as furnishing just cause of complaint.

"By order of the General Court, corn and beans were used in voting, the corn representing the Ayes and the beans the Nays. A heavy penalty was imposed if any individual put into the box more than one. The candidates were voted separately until one was elected."

"Tradition says that at the time of John Alden's marriage to Priscilla Mullens, and of his excursion from Plymouth to Barnstable, there was a destitution of horses and traveling equipage in the Colony and that it was not uncommon for oxen or bulls to supply the place. Mr. Alden rode on the back of a bull, with a piece of handsome broadcloth for a saddle, and on his return his bride was seated on the same, the happy bridegroom leading the bull carefully by a cord to the nose-ring."



## CHAPTER XVII.

### *North River Ferry Boats and Other Matters.*

In 1668 the following was applied to Marshfield as well as other towns in Plymouth Colony: "It is enacted by the Court, That all *Swine* wth in these Colonies shall be sufficiently ringed after they shall be tenn weeks old, and if that any shall be complayned of to be vnruely, that then they be yeoked, upon the penalty of six pence for every swine that shall be found unringed and not presently ringed upon warning given thereof, and this to be done by the first of November next."

In 1649 also the following: "Whereas there is greate need of a fferry boat to be erected to transport men & cattell over the North River, many complaining of the want thereof, and Such as passed that way were at great charge & put to many unconvenyences for want thereof ffor the redressing whereof. It is enacted by the Court That there shall be xijd for every family levyed throughout the Govrment towards the charges of the building of two vessells or boats for the transportacon of men and cattell over the said river at the now passage place. And that Mr. Jonathan Brewster shall have the keeping and the p'fitts (profits) of the said fferry to have and to hold to him and his heires forever and shall build and from tyme to tyme mayntaine two sufficient boats or vessels, one for the carrying of men and another for carrying of cattell on the said North River, wth a sufficient man or two to attend them. And shall have these rates for the first yeare viz: for a man ij d (two pence) for a horse & his rider vj d (six pence) for a beast vj d (six pence) for swine and goates ij d (two pence) And after the first yeare for men ij d (two pence) for a horse and his



rider vj d (six pence) for a beast iiij d (four pence) and for a goate or swine j d (one pence), of all men of what plantation soeu (soever)."

Another act says "that if one man only is carried over North River shall charge 4 pence & if more than one two pence each." In 1652, "Concerning such as are allowed to exercise men in arms in the several townes within this government the Court doth order as follows: Wm. Vassell and Wm. Hatch of Scituate, Capt. Standish of Plymouth, Lieut. Holmes of Duxborrow, and Nathl Thomas of Marshfield," etc., etc. "Also enacted by Court the charge of Killing Wolves shall be bourne by the whole Colony & that they shall have for every wolfe so killed, a coat of trading cloth." "In 1655 There was also a penalty of 40 shillings against any one found playing cards &c, also a fine of 12 pence for any one using Tobacco in the streets or about barns or corn stack or hay yards." Also enacted by court that if any English among the Indians allow horses, cattle, or swine on their premises, the stock shall be impounded and kept there until sufficient is paid them for damages.

It was also enacted in 1659 that "every owner of horses shall take the first opportunity to mark & enter their horses according to order and in case any shall neglect so to do betwixt this & March Court next, shall forfeite five shillings to the town for such default for every horse found unmarked." "The different towns in the Colony must use for a mark, initial letter of their town, and Marshfield's mark was, capital 'M.'"

If our citizens of today were obliged to work as did the Forefathers of Marshfield in Pilgrim days, it might not only be better for the town, but also better for the lazy themselves. Here is what the Court of the old Plymouth Colony enacted in 1639: "ffor the preventing of Idlenes and other euills occationed thereby, It is enacted by the

Court that the grand jurymen in every Towne shall haue power within their several Townships to take a specioll view and notice of all manor of psons (persons) married and single, dwelling within their several Townships that have smale means to maintaine themselves and are suspected to lie Idlely and loosly and to require an account of them how they live; and such as they find delinquents, and cannot give a good account unto them. That they cause the constable to bringe them before a majestrate in their town if there be any, if there be none before the Selectmen appointed for such purpose that such course may bee taken with them, as in their wisdomes shal bee pledged just & equall;"

The list of freemen in Marshfield in 1643, that is, those who were admitted to the freedom of the Colony, who took the oath of allegiance to the Colony and were able to bear arms, was as follows: Mr. Edward Winslow (Governor)—Mr. Wm. Thomas (his assistant)—Josias Winslow—Kenelme Winslow—Mr. Thomas Bourne—Mr. Edward Buckley Robte Waterman—John Dingley—Thom. Shillingsworth—John Russell—and Mr. Nathaniel Thomas."

We find in the Plymouth Colony Records that in 1670 "Josias Winslow in behalf of the town of Marshfield brought suit against Nathaniel Thomas for neglecting & refusing to pay one pound seven shillings & ninepence due him for the ministry at Marshfield. The Court sentenced him to two pounds 15 shillings & sixpence."

"John Low of the Town of Marshfield in 1671 for profaning the Lord's day by servile labor & contemtable words being minded of that abuse, the court fined 40 shillings or to be whipt."

"In 1675 Wm. Wood of Marshfield for speaking contemptuously of Mr. Arnold on the Lord's day in Feb. last, as appears by evidence was sentenced by the Court to sitt in the stocks 2 hours the next training day at Marshfield."

In 1676 we find on the Colony records that "a Jury

viewed the body of John Rose, late of Marshfield and found that on the 13th of February he being a gunning was overcome by the violence of the weather, which was the cause of his death."

The selectmen and surveyors of Marshfield in early days were appointed by the Plymouth Colony Court.

"In 1678 Elizabeth Low of Marshfield, a single woman, was publickly whipped for giving birth to a child, & the father of the child was sentenced to pay sufficient to support it." "In 1681, Timothy Rogers of Marshfield in the like manor, being lame & unfit in that respect, is freed from bearing armes & training." Also the court "did establish Mr. Nathl Thomas to be Captain of the Milletary of Marshfield & Isaac Little Lieut. and Wm. Foord ensigne of said Company."

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### *Town Record Selections.*

#### *Scituate and Marshfield Bounds in 1682.*

"Articles of agreement between Scituate and Marshfield for boundary between them."

1682.

"Articles of agreement indented made an concluded the four & twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord 1682— between Nathl Thomas & Saml Sprague Agents of the town of Marshfield of the one part and Thos Turner and Saml Clapp Agents of the town of Scituate of the other part witnesseth: That wheras the said towns by their several orders have chosen & impowered us the above named parties to make a final settlement of the bounds of or between the said towns at or in the North River that so the said Sedge's Islands or flats in or upon the said river may be settled to each of the said towns according to right and the inhabitants of neither town tresspass on the other by cutting or mowing of these flats or islands for the future. We the above named parties do by these presents mutually settle, determine & agree that the bounds between the said of Marshfield and Scituate shall be the main channel as it now runneth down the North River from the Upper part to the sea; and wheras at a place in the said river called Green Island, the said channel doth divide and runneth on both sides the said Island it is further agreed that the said Green Island shall be equally divided into two parts & the Southward part thereof shall belong to the said town of Marshfield, and the Northward part thereof shall belong to the said town of Scituate and in witness that this is and shall be the settled bounds between the said towns forevermore we have here-

unto set our hands this day and year above written. The Court have approved and confirmed the above written agreement & have ordered to be recorded. (Signed

Testa—me—

Thos. Turner

Nathl. Morton—Secretary

Nathaniel Thomas

Samuel Clap

Samuel Sprague”

1684.

“Agreed by the inhabitants in town meeting that wheras the town shall purchase the lands that was formerly granted between Duxborrow and our town, but being after purchased by Nemasket persons of the Indians, they being willing that Duxborro and our town shall have their grant formerly given to the said towns, they reserving their purchase that Nemasket men laid out for the lands and the town hath voted that the said purchase shall be raised and paid by the inhabitants after the rate of the purchase of this whole town unto Josiah Wampetuck, the Indian.

“Also made Saml. Sprague Agent for the town and in their behalf to agree with Namesket men as to that part of the purchase which concerned their purchase of the lands which was by the Court granted to Duxborrow and our town lying about Mattakeesett viz: that part of the purchase that did concern our half of the whole lands aforesaid which was by the said Neemaskett men paid to the indians that so it, may be repayed again to them.”

*“Bounds Betwixt Marshfield and Duxborrow.”*

“Wheras we whose names are underwritten are appointed by the towns of Duxborrow and Marshfield to run the lines and settle the bounds between the Townships of Duxborrow & Marshfield as by the Records of the said towns doth appear we have accordingly run the said lines & settled the bounds as followeth: From the Rock that is flat on the top near the house of Clement King, Northwest to the North River and have marked several trees in the range

and about 12 or 15 rods North Eastward of Saml. Hatch's house, we raised a heape of stones & from the said rock South east to the Cartway between Samuel & Seth Arnold's, where we raised a heap of stones and from thence to Green's Harbor fresh the path to be the bound, and on the eastward side of said fresh, just above where the said way goes through it we raised a heap of stones and from thence on a straight line to a tree of White Oak with the top broken off called poles, which said tree stands by the Cartway just where an old footpath turned out of it towards Careswell and between the said ways and from thence on a straight line to the South west side of Edward Bumpus' land so called, when he formerly lived at Duck Hill, taking in the said lands of the said Edward Bumpus to the township of Marshfield, and these bounds aforesaid to be the bounds betwixt the said townships of Duxboro and Marshfield forevermore.

"In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands the three & twentieth day of February 1683.

Signed

Wm. Peabody—Nathaniel Thomas

John Tracie—Samuel Sprague"

A county road was laid out in 1684 "from Green's Harbor brook" at the bounds between Duxbury and Marshfield to "the path leadeth toward Robert Barker's, till it meeteth with Duxbury lands."

1685.

"The town upon enquiry of Sarah Staple and others find she hath not been in our town so as to make her an inhabitant here, did vote she should not be here intertained and warned her to depart out of this town by the selectmen. The town agreed & chose Capt. Nathl. Thomas—Lieut. Isaac Little and Sergeant Sprague or either of them to endeavor to clear this town from any charge concerning Sarah Staple or the bastard child she saith she is with, and the town to defray their charge respecting the premises."



1686.

"It is ordered that every housekeeper of this town shall kill or cause to be killed before the 12th day of July next six blackbirds, and so between the months of February & June annually on penalty of 3 shillings forfeit to the town for every housekeeper that neglecteth to kill his number of birds and all such birds' heads to be brought in to some one of the Selectmen who shall keep account of the same."

"Whereas Mr. Arnoid our minister is necessitated to build a barn on the ministry's land, & not knowing when it shall please God to take him hence, it was agreed & voted by the inhabitants, none dissenting, that this town shall pay to his executors or administrators what the barn shall be worth at his decease to be prized by indifferent men."

1689.

"In compliance with the desire of Thos. Hinckley, late Governor of this colony the inhabitants here have chosen Nath. Winslow and John Barker to advise with the said late Governor & those who were of his old Council for a present settlement of government in this Colony and of the militia within the same for the preservation of the public peace and defence against a Common enemy and such other matters as may concern the welfare of this colony. And in order thereunto do advise that there be an election of Governor and assistants as soon as may be by all such as have liberty to vote in town meetings and such as the several towns respectively shall admit. And also choice of military officers by the inhabitants and soldiers in the several towns until the Supreme authority shall otherwise order."

"In pursuance of the order of the last Court for the raising money for the present expedition (King Williams' war) against the barbarous enemy, Indians, Saml Doggett, Anthony Eames, Ephraim Little, John Foster, promised to lend the town twenty shillings a piece to be repaid again by



the next town's rate in the same specie and Lieut. Little to recieve the same of them."

"Lieut. Little bought the hieffer yearling that Thos. Macomber took of Hopestill Bisbee for a debt due the town and he to pay to the Selectmen for her 14s in money which money is to be employed in fixing arms and other accoutrements for three Indian Soldiers that are to go out against the Indian enemy this present expedition. It is ordered that each of the three soldiers of our town's proportion for the present expectation who shall willingly offer and list themselves shall have ten shillings in Money from the town as a free gift for their encouragement."

"The town have voted that the pound keeper shall have paid him six pence for every horse, four pence for every neat beast & two pence for every swine and 1 penny for every sheep by such person as shall fetch such beast out of the pound."

1694.

"Agreed by the town Capt. Nathnl Thomas shall and may purchase what he can of those lands lying at Mattakeesett Ponds from the Indians which were formerly reserved by Josias; & he to be accountable to the town for what he shall so purchase and the town to reimburse him or pay him his disbursements touching the purchase of the same or he to have the lands so purchased to him & his heirs."

1696.

"The town granted unto Capt. Nathaniel Thomas and released and quitted claim to him and his heirs forever all the towns interest, claims & demands, whatsoever of and unto all the two hundred Acres he hath purchased of the indians lying above the Indian Head River Pond (by virtue of an order of this town bearing date July 30—1694) according as the same is bounded in his deed he hath from the Indians, viz: by one deed from Jeremiah Memuntange and Abigail, his wife bearing date the 15th day of May 1695

and one other deed from Mathias Wampy dated the 4th of Sept. 1694."

1694.

"The inhabitants have agreed for the support of Thos. Weld in the work of the ministry amongst us, to pay him sixty pounds in money per annum and after that rate for the time he continueth amongst us. And if he shall settle among us, to pay him fifty pounds per annum in Money and the use of the farm belonging to the Ministry, put into good repair by the town for him."

"Memorandum: That Lieut. Little paid Capt. Nathnl Thomas six pounds in Money for 40 pounds weight of powder, and bought 200 lbs. of weight of bullets for three pounds fifteen shillings in part for the land granted him at Mattakeesett, and the town order that the said Powder and bullets shall be kept at the Lieut's for the town's use.

"The town voted that if any person or persons who hath or shall hire the 'Sedge flats' or islands in any of the three rivers belonging to this town shall be or have been molested or tresspassed on by others they may sue such trespasses and in case they be at any charges to defend the towns title, the town will reimburse them."

1700.

"The town did then & there vote that Dr. Little should supply the place for *school master* for the instructing of youth in reading, writing & ciphering in the said town for the year ensuing and the said Doctor Little did then promise and engage to the said town so to do."

"The town made choice of Mr. Saml Sprague to be their agent to answer in behalf of the town in respect of a presentiment that is made of the said town for defect of or not having a schoolmaster in the said town."

1701.

"Inhabitants of the town voted and agreed with Doctor Thomas Little to serve the town as Schoolmaster for the year

ensuing & in consideration thereof the town to free him from the poll tax for the said year and also to allow him 20 shillings."

1702.

Isaac Winslow was chosen Representative to Gen. Court.

1703.

"The town made choice of Captain Nathaniel Winslow to represent them in a Great and General Court to be holden in Boston or elsewhere the 10th of this inst. March.

"Also at said town meeting the town voted and also agreed with Mr. Peregrine White to be their schoolmaster for the year ensuing and in consideration thereof the town to allow and pay to him the said Peregrine White the sum of £1—10s and also that all persons that send their children shall pay to him sixpence a week above & beside the sum aforesaid for each child that comes to be instructed."

1703.

"The town ordered that every householder of this town shall kill or cause to be killed before the first day of July next six black birds and 30 between the months of February & July annually on a penalty of 3 shillings forfeit to be paid to and recovered by the town treasurer for the town's use from every housekeeper that refuses or neglected to kill said number of birds and all such birds to be brought in to the town treasurer who shall keep an account of the same and also any person or persons of the said town that shall be in to the said treasurer more than their number set on them in said order being grown birds shall be paid by the treasurer out of the town's stock the sum of two pence for each head so killed in the town, and brought in by them."

"Also at a meeting appointed by the selectmen to let or hire out the common Sedge Flats & Islands in the North, South & Green Harbor rivers for this present year they did then hire out all the flats that belong to the town in Green's Harbor River to Doctor Thomas Little for 13 shillings also

all the common flats in the South River to Isaac Winslow for 18 shillings as also all the lower flats in the North River below Stephen's Island to Isaac Winslow for £1—10s likewise all the upper flats in the North River above said Stephen's Island to Mr. Saml Sprague for £1—15s the money to be paid to the town treasurer by the persons aforesaid at or before the 25th day of Dec. next ensuing."

1704.

"The proprietors of the town Commons of Marshfield being met on Monday May 22—1704 ordered, voted and acted that from the date hereof of any person or persons shall bark or milk or cause to be barked or milked for turpentine any of the pine trees in said Commons shall pay the sum of six shillings for each tree that shall be barked or milked."

1705.

It was agreed at town meeting "that in addition to the act for killing blackbirds that for those that cannot get blackbirds, that Squirrels & blue birds heads shall answer and serve in their stead being alike in number and being killed between the months of Feb. and July so as to save the fine."

"Also the town voted to build a new meeting house adjoining or near the old Meeting house (at or near Winslow burying ground), 44 ft. long, 34 ft. wide & 18 ft. between joints."

*Representatives' Salary in 1705.*

"Also to be paid to Isaac Little £13—7s." (Equal to \$44.50.)

1721.

"Isaac Winslow—Jona. Eames.—Thos. Macomber were appointed by the town for the recieving & letting the town of Marshfield's proportion or part of the fifty thousand pounds of Public Bills of Credit on this province to be lodged in the hands of the Province Treasurer pursuant to an Act

of the General Court in March last. Ordered that the said trustees or by their order do fetch said part or proportion as soon as the Province Treasurer do notify them or the Selectmen of this town of said Money being ready for them.

"Ordered that when said Money is recieved the said trustees shall post up a notification thereof so that persons deservng thereof may apply themselves therefor to said Trustees. Ordered that the said Trustees or the Major part of them, do let out said money to inhabitants of this town being freeholders to each person not exceeding twenty pounds nor under ten pounds to be proportioned among those who shall lay claim for the same at or before the first meeting of said Trustees and so not exceeding twenty pounds nor under ten pounds for the space of a month next after said first meeting.

"Ordered that in case the whole of said money be not drawn out within the said first month that then the said Trustees shall let out the remainder to any of this town's freeholders by such sum as they shall desire, ordered that in case the whole of the money be not drawn out within the next month after the said first month that then said trustees shall let out the remainder to any freeholder of the County of Plymouth," etc., etc., etc. The trustees gave bonds for their trust.

1721.

"The town appropriated fifty pounds to be raised out of the interest of the town's money, toward the relief of the distressed people in Boston viz: to those that are reduced to straights by reason of the distemper (*Small Pox*—) and to be sent them in wood and to be put into the hand of Daniel Oliver Esq. Mr. Thomas Cushing, Mr. James George and Mr. Saml Marshall of Boston for the use aforesaid & to be given out to such person as they in their prudence shall think have most occasion."

1725.

“At a meeting of the town, an attempt was made for an appropriation to build a meeting house & school house in the North part of the town, but it failed of a Majority vote.”

1727.

“At town meeting the town voted that any person in this town shall have the keeping of the town's new law book that will give the town most money for it and keep it for the use of any of the inhabitants of said town to look into as they need but not to carry it from the person that pays his money to the town Treasurer for it—Mr. John Little bid 23 shillings for the priveledge of keeping the said book & is to have it, paying his money as above said.”

“Also agreed that if any persons shall appear to make as much and convenient room for the Negroes and Indians as they now use without prejudice to any other seats in the meeting house at their own charge shall have liberty to have those seats they use to set in to build pews.”

“Also the town agreed that the Swine belonging to the inhabitants of this town have liberty to run at large for the year ensuing being well yoked and ringed as the law direct.”

In 1728 Marshfield appointed a day for letting out the town's part of £60,000 which the General Court appropriated to the towns, to be let to freeholders of the town in sums not exceeding £20, on good security.



## CAPTER XIX.

### *Indians—Wolves—Whipping Post—Lands.*

In 1689, the town of Marshfield manifesting some dislike to its captain, the Court ordered "that the Company be commanded by the lieut. and ensign until the next General Court."

1689.

"On account of some unfriendliness shown against our colonists, the Selectmen of Marshfield, as well as other towns in the Colony, do not allow the indians within the bounds of Ply. Colony pass not out by night or day without a certificate from them, on pain of imprisonment and that indians coming from other colonies without passes be secured and examined, before a military officer or magistrate and proceeded with."

Also the court ordered "that if any person, English or indian, apprehend and bring before authority any man that is an Indian enemy, he shall have ten pounds for a reward if he bring him, alive, and five pounds if killed, provided it be evident it be an enimie Indian."

There were eighteen wolves killed in the Plymouth Colony in 1689 and 1690.

In the Plymouth Colony Records we find the following in 1655: "Item, we present the town of Marshfield for want of a pound, stocks, & whipping post, contrary to order," which, we take it, means warned. Even the Colonists were given to slander then, as now, for we find in the Colony records that "Jos Silvester gave his bond for 20 pounds for Dinah Silvester that she should appear in Court in 1660 in answer to a complaint made by Wm Holmes & wife about a matter of defamation. Geo. Vaughan of Marshfield for not attending public worship was fined 10 Shillings."



It would not seem that in 1665, when the town had so few inhabitants, that it was necessary to have five Selectmen. The Court of the Colony, however, appointed "Leift. Peregrine White,—Ensigne Mark Eames—Anthony Snow—John Bourne—Wm. Foard." Now, in 1900, we have but three, and one, I think, would do the town better and more economical service, but the town from the time of the Revolution, as near as I can learn, have elected their three Selectmen in the North, Middle, and South parts, commonly known as districts, but not divided legally by town authority.

We find in the Colony records the marriage of the Pilgrim ancestor of the Little family in Marshfield. "Thomas Little and Ann Warren in 1633 Apr. 19th," probably in Plymouth, as it was several years before Marshfield was settled. We find also in the same year the following of Mr. Little: "John Barnes hath sold unto Thomas Little, one shallop in consideration of one pound of beaver rd in hand and three Ewe goats to be dd [delivered] in June ensuing, whereof one to be a yeare old & the other two between the age of two & three yeares, all giving milke at the same time."

During the first year of the incorporation of Marshfield, 1640, "Land was granted to Geo. Soule, a meadow he desired against Mr. Prince's lands at Green Harbor." Lots also of fifteen or twenty acres to different persons about this time were granted. A dozen Colonists were granted from thirty to eighty acres each by the Court. William Thomas, assistant to Governor Edward Winslow, was granted a large lot of land, fifteen hundred acres, in the neighborhood of Green Harbor and adjoining the estate of Governor Winslow. Governor Winslow and William Thomas owned together some 2700 acres.

In these early days Josiah Winslow, youngest brother of Edward Winslow, settled near Kenelm (another brother of Governor Edward), who lived northerly of Green Harbor river. Said Josiah was town clerk of Marshfield for many

years. Town meetings were held in the churches until 1838, and afterward in the old Town House, near the present site of the Almshouse, which was abandoned for the new Hall in the Ventress Memorial Building in the last decade of the 19th century. In 1654 a mill was authorized to be built in the town at South River for the grinding of corn.

## CHAPTER XX.

### *Churches.*

At Marshfield, several substantial Welshmen settled by invitation of Governor Edward Winslow, and with them came Richard Blinman, who was pastor here in 1641-2 (but a year after the town was incorporated and the first church built). He was a scholar, "and may have been in advance of the times, for he was in disfavor." He and his countrymen soon went to Cape Ann.

#### *Pastors.*

"It would seem," says Baylies, "that Mr. Blinman, although in the phraseology of the day, 'a godly and able man,' was not well received by the austere Puritans of Marshfield, who compared him to a 'piece of new cloth in an old garment.' He was a learned man, and wrote a treatise in defense of infant baptism."

Next came Edward Bulkly (graduated at Harvard College in 1642). He was the able and learned son of the first pastor of Concord. \*"The third minister here was Saml Arnold in 1657, then followed in 1696 Edward Thompson, in 1707 James Gardner. In 1706 the third meeting-house was built on the site of the old. [These meeting-houses were the first in Marshfield, and were erected on the same site, in the vicinity of the old Winslow burying ground.] Mr. Gardner continued as the minister at this church until his death in 1739.

In 1738 the second Congregational society was incorporated in the north part of the town; and a meeting-house built, on or near the site at Marshfield Hills where the Unitarian church now stands in 1901, which the people in the

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\*Wm. T. Davis in "History of Plymouth County."

south part of the town within the limits of the old parish denominated the 'Chapel of Ease.' In 1826 the old meeting-house was taken down and a new one was erected. In 1848 the new meeting-house was remodeled after plans furnished by Isaiah Rogers (an eminent architect).

"Rev. Mr. Bryant first officiated in the church after its incorporation, serving but one year. Then Rev. Atherton Wales, a graduate of Harvard College in 1726, officiated. His ministry extended over fifty years. He was then followed by Rev. Elijah Leonard, who continued for forty-eight years. After his death, Rev. Luke A. Spofford supplied the pulpit for one year. At this time, in 1833, the church was nearly equally divided between the old and the new faith. As, however, in the old church the evangelical portion of the congregation prevailed, so here the liberal wing predominated and the Rev. George Leonard (whom we remember as a "grand old man") was settled, and preached here twenty-five or more years."

As a result of this action, a new society was organized in 1835, under the name of the Second Congregational Trinitarian Society. A new church was built, and is now standing just below the old (Unitarian) church and nearly opposite the Clift Rodgers Free Library Building. "Its ministers who have preached there are Rev. Eli Smith, followed by Rev. Elbridge G. Howe, Rev. Sumner Clark, Rev. F. A. Fiske, Rev. Daniel D. Tappan, Rev. Luther Farnham, Rev. F. F. Williams, Rev. J. C. Seagrave," and others since, whose pastorates have been so short it is not worth while to enumerate them in these pages. The same may be said of the many pastors who followed the Rev. George Leonard in the Second Congregational Society (Unitarian). In this Second Congregational Society during the Revolution "a military company was organized among their numbers and entered in the records of the church."

Returning to the First Parish in South Marshfield, its

fifth pastor was Rev. Samuel Hill, in 1740. He was followed by Rev. Joseph Green in 1753. In 1758 a new meeting-house was built on the site of the old one. Rev. Thos. Brown, in 1759, succeeded, and was followed by Rev. William Shaw in 1763. In 1798, the Baptist Religious Society of Marshfield was incorporated, and near this date a meeting-house was built in the west part of the town. In 1850 the house was remodeled and enlarged. Pastors filling the pulpit were Joseph Butterfield, Barnabas Perkins, Thomas Conant, Benjamin Putnam, William H. Hall, and others following with short pastorates. The present pastor in 1901 is Rev. Mr. Knobb.

The Second Baptist Society in North Marshfield, near the village of Marshfield Hills, built their church in 1826. Rev. S. Ripley was ordained as its first pastor, and was followed by numerous others, whose pastorates were short. Rev. Jacob Davis, now living here in 1901, nearly 90 years of age, preached for five or six years, over a quarter of a century ago. The pastorate is now filled by Rev. Thomas Goodwin, who has preached there for the past dozen or more years.

The present site and part of the edifice of the Grand Army Post at Marshfield Hills was occupied for many years in the early part of the last century as an Episcopal church. Capt. Luther Little and Capt. Luther Rogers and families, who were among the leading men in town, were prominent parishioners, and long after the closing of the church for want of attendance, the latter, all alone, would go with his Bible each Sabbath into the church to commune with his God. For half a century there have been no services there, and the building, about thirty or forty years ago, was purchased by the late Wales Rogers and a floor put in midway, dividing the upper part from the lower. The lower story for some years was used for a paint and wheelwright shop, and the upper portion for a hall, Roger's Hall, the only hall then in

the village. Not such a hall as we have now! Benches, mostly without backs, to sit upon, and large wood stoves to heat the hall, with no platform to speak upon. But many good times were enjoyed there, dramas, concerts, lectures, and dances.

"In 1824," says Davis, "the Methodist Episcopal Society built an edifice in the central portion of the town, and in 1854 they built the present meeting-house, about a quarter of a mile northerly of the Agricultural Fair grounds. Lewis Janson was the first settled pastor, in 1830, followed by others every two years or more to the present time.

"Returning to the First church again, Rev. Mr. Shaw preached there until his death, in 1816, having preached fifty years. Beginning in 1817, Rev. Martin Parris officiated. He preached until 1836. Rev. Seneca White was installed in 1838. Before Mr. White was settled, the present edifice near the Marshfield railroad station (Cohasset & Duxbury Railroad) was built, when the society moved into its new quarters. The eleventh pastor of the church was Rev. Eben. Alden, installed in 1850, who preached here many years and is remembered as one of the best men that Marshfield ever had within its borders. He resigned his pastorate a few years ago, and died about two years since. He has been followed by several pastors; Rev. Mr. Lucas has recently been settled there.

At this church our very eminent townsman, the Hon. Daniel Webster, attended, when at home in Marshfield. There are two more churches which have been built within the last decade at Brant Rock and Green Harbor. One is Unitarian, and the other a Union church. The pastor at the Unitarian church now preaching is Mrs. Whitney.

I do not find it recorded that any specially bigoted preaching was indulged in by our Marshfield pastors, but it is said of Mr. Treat, eldest of twenty-one children of Governor Treat of Connecticut, who preached at Eastham in 1672,



“that he was wont in his stalwart sermons to dwell on the delight with which the tortures of his impenitent hearers would be witnessed by God, while they writhed in hell with a thousand devils rending and tearing and macerating them through all eternity.”

The Second Congregational Trinitarian (Orthodox) church at Marshfield Hills was fortunate a decade or more ago in having in a will left by the late Henry Tilden of Marshfield Hills, a legacy endowing it with a fund as follows: \$5,000 for a parsonage and church purposes; \$1,300 of it has been used for the purchase of a parsonage, and the income of the balance unspent is for the use of the church. A still larger endowment was left to it by Mr. Tilden, being the residue of his property after the payment of certain bequests. It amounted to \$18,000, but by his widow claiming a dower right, the Court awarded her \$1,000, in addition to the bequest to her by the will, and also one-half of the interest or income of the \$17,000 during her life, the church having the other half interest, and at her decease the whole of the income passes to the church; on one condition, however, namely: As long as the church continues in the same evangelical faith as now. When it departs therefrom, it is to be transferred to the First Congregational church at South Marshfield, and if that church should depart also from the evangelical faith, it must then be given to the Massachusetts Home Missionary Society.



## CHAPTER XXI.

### *Town Record Selections.*

1728.

"The town raised £22—10s for defraying the charge of the Preaching to the neighborhood at the North part of the town for 13 Sabbaths in the Winter & Spring."

1730.

An attempt was made in town meeting to divide the South part of the town from the North, into precincts, but failed a majority vote.

1731.

"The town agreed to pay Mr. 'Greenlife' for every Sabbath Day he hath or shall preach to the neighborhood at the North river in the Months of Dec. Jan. Feb. & March."

1732.

At a town meeting, voted "that John Barker & Cornelius White do represent the town as agents to make answer to a petition of several persons in the Northerly part of said town at the Great & General Court at Boston on Friday the 23rd inst and that whereas divers persons in the Northerly part of Marshfield have complained to the Great and General Court of the long travel to the public worship of God, in that the meeting house stands too near the southerly end of said town, a vote was called to know the mind of said town whether they would free all those who have subscribed to a petition bearing date the last day of May 1732, from the maintenance of the present minister, provided they maintain a minister amongst themselves, and the town be discharged from their 'Chappel of Ease,' the four months in the year and said vote passed in the affirmative."

1733.

"Paid John Baker for killing three wild cats."

1736.

Again an attempt was made to divide the town into the North and South precincts, but failed of a majority vote.

1738.

"At a meeting of the town it was voted that there be 30s a sabbath raised by the town for the use of the ministers that preached at the 'Chappel of Ease' in the month of December, January, February & March, for so much time as there was preaching there.

"Also ordered that there be care taken in this town to destroy the birds & vermin that are destructive to the corn & to that end the town came into the following act or by law, viz: That the head of every family in this town be obliged to procure and bring in to such persons as the town shall choose six heads of the following birds, or red squirrels viz: Crows—Crow bill black birds, threshers, & every head of a family that shall neglect so to do shall pay a fine of 5 shillings to the Treasurer to the use of the poor of said town, &c. &c. &c."

1762.

"At a town meeting was presented a petition of a number of the inhabitants respecting the catching BASS in the North River, so called in the winter season, which petitioners applied to the General Court to prevent, was laid before the town and after due consideration, thereupon, the vote was put to know the mind of the town whether an act may be passed in the General Court for the preservation of those fish and prevent their being thus taken in the winter season, and it passed in the affirmative."

## CHAPTER XXII.

1765.

### *Stamp Act and Other Matters.*

"Town meeting was held in Marshfield, October 14, 1765. The meeting being opened, the *Stamp Act* was read, and also the governor's speech at the General Court, and what they had done, &c. And then they proceeded and made choice of Abijah White, Esq., & N. R. Thomas, Esq., John Little—Capt. Dan<sup>l</sup> White and Nehemiah Thomas as a Committee to give Gen. Winslow, their representative, instructions what part they would have him take, or means use to remove so terrible a calamity as threatens this Province, as well as all America, if the Stamp Act should take place, and what legal means that they shall think most reasonable & likely to have the Stamp Act repealed."

"The committee of the town of Marshfield appointed to give instructions to their representative, John Winslow, Esq., what method he should take in order to have so grievous a calamity removed, as threatens this & neighboring governments by the Stamp Act, and other things and matters now pending before the General Court, having taken upon that trust in behalf of the town, we are of the opinion that should that act take effect it would prove the great distress, if not the utter ruin of this Province, and do therefore advise and direct our representative to use all proper methods in every legal manner to get the said act repealed, and look upon themselves as holden and bound to abide by such determination as the Grand Committee now sitting at New York should conclude on, unless something extraordinary should be in that report, which they cannot foresee, in such case our

Representative to use his own discretion. And further the Committee are of the opinion that as the circumstances of the Province are at this juncture in a difficult situation and the people distressed in the payment of their present taxes, that our said Representative be desired and directed to be very careful in making any new or unusual grants of money & to be a saving of the public revenue & of taxing the inhabitants of the Province as things will admit of.

"And also we desire the said John Winslow, Esq., to show his disapprobation of the late riotous proceedings in the town of Boston in the month of September last."

Signed,

Abijah White—John Little,

Nehemiah Thomas—N. Ray Thomas.

1767.

"At the town meeting the vote was put to know the town's mind whether hogs may go at large, in said town, the year ensuing, provided they are well ringed and yoked, according to law, and it passed in the affirmative."

1772.

June 29—"An attempt was made to annex 'Two Mile' of Scituate to Marshfield, but failed."

1773.

"At a town meeting held, March 15, the town proceeded & voted to know the town's mind whether they will receive a number of petitions belonging to that part of Scituate called the 'Two Miles' to be set off from said Scituate, and to be incorporated in this town; and the Moderator declared the said vote to be in the affirmative, there being 50 votes for it, and 49 against."

## CHAPTER XXIII.

1774.

### *Tory Resolutions Passed by the Town.*

Jan. 31—"At a town meeting held in Marshfield Nath<sup>l</sup> Ray Thomas, Esq., (a Tory) was chosen Moderator. At said meeting, the said Moderator put to know the town's mind whether he should have leave to speak his mind and declare his sentiments relating to the things mentioned in the warrant, & it passed in the affirmative.

"Then the vote was put to know their minds whether they will act upon the warrant, and it passed in the affirmative; then they proceeded & chose a Committee consisting of seven men, viz: Dr. Isaac Winslow—Nath<sup>l</sup> Ray Thomas, Esq., & Messrs. Elisha Ford, Seth Bryant, Wm. Stevens, John Baker and Ephraim Little, to take into consideration and draw up what they should think proper for the town to vote, and to make their report, on the adjournment at this meeting, and then the meeting was adjourned for the space of an hour, at the expiration of that term the committee made their report, which was as follows:"

"This town taking into consideration the late tumultuous, and as we think illegal proceedings in the town of Boston in the detention & destruction of the *teas* belonging to the East India Co., which we apprehend will effect our property, if not our liberties, think it our indispensable duty to show our disapprobation of such measures & proceedings, therefore, voted & resolved as the opinion of this town,—That this town ever have and always will be good and loyal subjects to our Sovereign Lord, King George the 3rd, & will observe, obey and enforce all such good & wholesome laws as are or shall be constitutionally made by the Legislature or the com-

munity of which we are members; and by all legal ways and means, to the utmost of our powers and abilities will protect, defend and preserve our liberties and privileges against the machinations of foreign or domestic enemies.

"2nd—Resolved, that the late measures and proceedings in the town of Boston in the detention and destruction of the *teas* belonging to the East India Co. were illegal and unjust, and of a dangerous tendency.

"3rd—Resolved, that Abijah White, Esq., the present Representative of this town, be & hereby is instructed and directed to use his utmost endeavors that the perpetrators of those mischiefs may be detected and brought to justice, and as the country has been heretofore drawn in to pay their proportionable part of the expense which accrued from the riotous and unruly proceedings and conduct of certain individuals in the town of Boston, if application should be made to the General Court by the East India Co., or any other persons for a consideration for the loss of said *teas*, you are by no means to acquiesce, but bear your testimony against any measures by which expense may accrue to the province in general, or the town of Marshfield in particular; & those people, only, who were active, aiding and assisting or conniving at the destruction of said *teas*, pay for the same."

"That our representative be & hereby is further directed and instructed to use his utmost endeavors at the General Court that the laws of this province be carried into due execution, and that all offenders against the same may be properly punished. And we further declare it as our opinion that the grand basis of Magna Charta and reformation of Liberty of Conscience, and rights of Private Judgment is just, wherefore, we do renounce all method of imposition, violence and persecution, such as has been most shamefully exercised upon a number of inhabitants of the town of Plymouth by obliging them to sign a recantation, as called, and in case of refusal to have their houses pulled down, or they tarred &



feathered, and all this under the specious Mask of Liberty: "Signed"—Wm. Stevens—Nahtl Ray Thomas—Ephraim Little—John Baker—Isaac Winslow—Elisha Ford—Seth Bryant, which report was read and accepted, & then they voted that the Town Clerk record it and grant a copy to Abijah White, Esq., their present Representative, and he be to put it into the public papers."

1774.

"The vote was put to know the town's mind whether one-half of the annual town meeting for the future shall be held & kept at the North meeting house, in said town, & it passed in the affirmative."

*General Court Moved to Salem, Mass.*

"At a town meeting held in Marshfield, September 26, 1774. At said meeting, Nehemiah Thomas was chosen to serve for and represent them in the session & sessions of the Great & General Court, or assembly appointed to be convened, held & kept, for his majestie's service, at the Court house in Salem upon Wednesday, the fifth day of Oct., 1774."

"A meeting of a body of the inhabitants of the town of Marshfield was held at the South Meeting house, in said town, the 8th day of October, 1774. Notified by the Selectmen of said town, they made choice of Mr. Isaac Phillips, Moderator. At said meeting Nehemiah Thomas was unanimously chosen to co-operate with the Representatives and others, who are chosen in the several towns in this Province, and appointed to meet at Concord in the County of Middlesex on the second Tuesday of this inst., October, in order to form themselves into a provincial Congress Committee, and to take in to their most serious consideration what may be the most wise and prudent measure to be taken at this most alarming crisis of our public affairs, and what may be most likely to produce a radical change of our public grievances. And then they voted to defray the necessary expense of the said Nehemiah Thomas in the affair."



## CHAPTER XXIV.

1775.

*Tories again in the Ascendant.*

“At a town meeting held in Marshfield, Feb. 20th, Dr. Isaac Winslow was chosen Moderator. At said meeting the vote was put to know the mind of the town, whether they will adhere to and abide by the resolves and recommendations of the *Continental* & Provincial Congress or any *illegal* assemblies whatsoever, and it passed in the *negative*.

“2nd—The vote was put to know the mind of the town whether they will return their thanks to Gen. Gage and Admiral Graves for their ready & kind interposition, assistance and protection from further insults and abuses with which we are continually threatened, and it passed in the affirmative.

“3rd—They voted that a Committee be chosen to draw up and send the same to the said Gen. Gage & Admiral Graves, said committee consisting of 23 persons, viz: Abijah White, Esq., (Representative) Dr. Isaac Winslow—Wm. Stevens—John Baker—Ephraim Little—Elisha Ford—Seth Bryant—Dea. John Tilden—Capt. Amos Rogers—Capt. Daniel White—Capt. Nath<sup>l</sup> Phillips—Seth Ewell—Paul White, Tho<sup>s</sup> Little—Elisha Sherman—Simeon Keene—Capt. Cornelius White—Abraham Walker—Wm. Macomber—Lemuel Little—Abijah Thomas—Abner Wright & Job Winslow.”

## CHAPTER XXV.

1775.

### *Preparations for the Revolution.*

"Mr. Benj. White was chosen to represent this town in a provincial Congress appointed to be convened and held at Watertown on the 31st day of this inst., May."

"A meeting was held at the South Meeting house at Marshfield, 10th day of July, 1775. Mr. Samuel Oakman was chosen Moderator. The vote was first put to know the town's mind whether it is necessary to keep a guard on our shore, & and it passed in the affirmative.

"2nd—They voted to adopt a plan drawn by the Selectmen and committee of correspondence, and inspection of this Regiment at a meeting held in Hanover on the 28th of June, 1775."

"The town allowed Capt. Thomas & Capt. Jos. Clift £5-8s to pay their men employed to guard the shore, in said town, before the provincial company was stationed."

1776.

"The committee appointed at a previous meeting was directed to agree with six men to guard the seashore of the town for such a term of time as shall be determined by said committee, and to agree with them as to their wages, not to exceed after the rate of £2-8s per month."

"At a town meeting, May 13, 1776, a vote was put to know the town's mind whether they will make an addition to the committee of Correspondence, Inspection & safety for the present year who were chosen at the last March meeting, and it passed in the affirmative. And then they voted that there be an addition of nine persons, and then they proceeded

agreeable to direction of the General Court to choose, by written votes, and made choice of Capt. Thos Waterman—Capt. Wm. Thomas—Kenelm Winslow, Esq.—Isaac Phillips—Daniel Lewis—Israel Rogers—Peleg Rogers—Capt. Wm. Clift & John Oakman.”

## CHAPTER XXVI.

1776.

### *Patriots and Patriotism.*

"Town meeting at the South Meeting house in Marshfield, June 19, Mr. Sam<sup>l</sup> Oakman, Moderator. At said meeting they voted the following instructions be sent to Nehemiah Thomas, Esq., their representative (at General Court held in Watertown, Mass.) viz: 'Your constituents not doubting of your patriotism, now in legal meeting assembled, think it necessary to instruct you touching the Independence of America.' "

1776. June 19th.

#### *Marshfield's Declaration of Independence.*

[Which ante-dates the *Fourth of July* Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress.]

"To the amazement of your constituents, the King of Great Britian is become a tyrant. He has wantonly destroyed the property of the Americans, and wickedly spilled their blood. He has assented to Acts of Parliament, calculated to subjugate the Colonies unparalleled by the worst of tyrants. Our petitions he has rejected, and instead of Peace he has sent the sword. Every barbarous nation whom he could influence he has courted for the destruction of the colonies.

"Once we would have expended life & fortune in defence of his crown and dignity, but now we are alienated, and conscience forbids us to support a tyrant whose tyranny is without refinement. Alliance with him is now almost Treason to our country, but we wait patiently till Congress, in whose counsels we confide, shall declare those colonies Independent of Great Britian. The inhabitants of this town, therefore,

unanimously instruct & direct you that if the Continental Congress should think it necessary for the safety of these United Colonies to declare them Independent of Great Britian, that the inhabitants of this town, with their lives & fortune, will most heartily support them in the measure.

Benj. White,

Clerk of the day."

"At said town meeting it was voted that Capt. Wm. Thomas—Capt. Joseph Clift and Benj. White be a committee to call those persons to an account who have borrowed powder, balls & flints out of the Town's stock, & to receive the money of them in order to purchase town's stock. Then they voted that there be the sum, £24-0-0 raised in addition to the town's stock to be laid out in powder, balls, & flints. General Court ordered that the Declaration of Independence be printed, and a copy be sent to the ministers of each parish of every denomination, in this state, and that they severally be required to read the same to their respective congregations as soon as Divine Service is ended in the afternoon on the Lord's day, after such publication, thereof, to deliver the said declaration, to record the same in their respective town or district books, then to remain as a perpetual memorial thereof. In the name, & by order of the Committee of the Council.

A true copy. Attest. John Avery, Dept. Sec.: R. Derby, Jr., President; Salem, Massachusetts. By E. Russell, by order of authority.

"In the old South Meeting house in Marshfield, October 7, 1776, a town meeting was held, and at said meeting the question was put to know the town's mind whether they will act upon the warrant for this meeting, and the vote passed in the affirmative unanimously. And after due consideration the question was put to know their minds whether they will give their consent to the proposals made in a resolve of the House of Representatives of this state, the 17th day of

September last, viz: That the present house of Representatives of this state, together with the Council, if they consent in one body, & by equal voice should consult, agree on and form such a constitution and form of government for this state as the said house of Representatives, and Council as aforesaid, on the fullest & most mature deliberation shall judge, will most conduce to the safety, peace and happiness of this state in all after successors and generations, and that the same be made public for the inspection and perusal of the inhabitants before the ratification, thereof, by the assembly."



## CHAPTER XXVII.

### *Prices of Home Products during the Revolution.*

“At a meeting of the Selectmen and Committee of Correspondence for this town, held Feb. 19, 1777. At said meeting they agreed & determined to adopt the prices of all those articles affixed and settled by the General Court of this state in the act made to prevent monopoly and oppression in those articles hereafter enumerated, which articles agreeable to an act of said General Court authorizing us to affix and settle for this town, respectfully, viz: [The prices are given in the document in English pounds, shillings & pence, are here changed to dollars and cents.] Good merchantable wheat \$1.00 pr. bushel. Good, well-fatted, grass-fed beef, 3 2-3 cents pr. lb.; salt hay where it can be come at with team, 27½ cents pr. hundred till Dec., after that 31 cents pr. hundred. English hay, 44 cents pr. hundred. Salt pork of the best quality at 8 cents pr. lb. Men’s best yarn stockings at 89 cents pr. pair—and in that proportion for an inferior quality. Men’s shoes, made of neat’s leather of the best common sort, \$1.16 2-3 pr. pair; women’s shoes, 84 2-3 cents pr. pair. A yoke of oxen, to work one day, 26 cents; a cart one day, 16 2-3 cents; a plow, one day to break up new ground, 36 cents, and for common green sward, 18 cents. For making shoes & pumps, men’s & women’s, 41 1-3 cents, and small shoes in like proportion. Cider at the press, \$1.00 pr. barrel, & at other seasons, \$1.33 1-3. For shoeing a horse, steel toes & calks, 89 cents, and shoeing oxen, in like proportion. Good hoes, 66 2-3 cents. Good board nails, \$2.00, & shingle nails at \$1.00 pr. thousand. A draft horse at 22 cents a day. Carpenters, 55 1-3 cents a day. Flax seed, 69 1-3 cents a

bushel. Housekeeping for a night—24 hours—16 2-3 cents. Good merchantable boards, white pine or pitch pine of the best quality, \$3.33 1-3 pr. M. Tobacco, 6 2-3 cents pr. pound. Good merchantable oak wood, at or near each meeting house in the town, \$1.50 pr. cord, & other wood in like proportion. And it is further enacted by the General Court, aforesaid, that every person who shall sell any of the above mentioned articles at a greater price than settled and fixed for the same, or others not enumerated in a manifest disproportion thereto, upon conviction shall be fined for every article so sold of the price of 20 shillings or under, the sum of 20s, and for every article of a price above 20s a sum equal to that for which such article shall be sold. And every person who shall take & receive for his service and labor a greater sum of money than is settled and fixed for the same in & by this act, shall forfeit and pay a like sum of money to that which he shall take and receive for his service and labor. And it is further enacted that whosoever shall sell any goods, wares or merchandise, or shall do any service or labor at a greater price than is settled or fixed thereto in and by this, upon credit, shall not have or maintain any action for the recovery thereof, but shall be barred therefrom, and the person against whom any action shall be brought for recovery of such money, may plead the general issue thereto, and give special matter in evidence to the jury."

"At a town meeting held March 6, 1777, it was agreed that Col. Anthony and Capt. Thos Waterman be a committee for the South part of the town, and Dea. Saml Tilden and Capt. Amos Rogers for the North part to procure money for bounty in addition to what is already granted by this state, as an encouragement to the soldiers to enlist into the service of the *Continental Army*, the sum that shall be sufficient to allow the sum of ten pounds lawful money to such soldier who shall enlist and pass muster, for the towns, "Coto" (quota) for the term of three years, or during the war, if

not regularly, and by proper authority, sooner discharged."

"At a meeting of the town in 1777—a list of townsmen who had opposed the war and taken the part of tories, was published by the town."

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### *Gov. Josiah Winslow and Others.*

Goodwin says, "Edward Winslow of Marshfield, (Governor) left one son, Josiah<sup>2</sup>, the future governor of the old colony, who also left one son, Isaac<sup>3</sup>, the latter left one son, John<sup>4</sup>, a future general in the British Army, & whose second son, Dr. Isaac<sup>5</sup>, (who built the present Winslow House in Marshfield, now standing) left a son, John<sup>6</sup>, and he a son, Isaac<sup>6</sup>, who died in Boston, the last to bear the name of Winslow, descending from the Pilgrim Gov. Winslow. The name of Winslow, however, has been honorably perpetuated through Governor Edward Winslow's three brothers, who settled near him in Marshfield." Rear Admiral Winslow, who sank the Alabama in the Civil War, was a descendant of the Winslows.

The most eminent Winslow of Marshfield, after Gov. Ed. Winslow, the Pilgrim, was his only son, Josiah, an account of whom I have gleaned from the Massachusetts Genealogical Register. "He had the command of a military company in Marshfield as early as 1652, and in 1658 was appointed Major, then Commander of the military force of the United Colonists, raised in King Phillip's Indian War. He was one of the Commissioners of the United Colonies in 1658, and re-elected for thirteen years. He was chosen one of the deputies, and in 1657, one of the assistants, & every year till 1673—when he was elected governor, which office he held seven years, until his death. He was the first native born general, & first native born governor.

"He stood upon the uppermost heights of society. Civil honors awaited him in his earliest youth; he reached every

elevation that could be obtained, & there was nothing left for ambition to covet, because all had been gained. The governor acquired the highest military rank and had been engaged in active and successful warfare, with the highest command then known in New England. He presided over the legislative, executive and judicial departments of the government. He lived on his ample paternal domain in Marshfield, and his hospitality was not only generous, but according to the notions of the age, magnificent.

"In addition to his military and civil distinctions, he had acquired that of being the most accomplished gentleman, and the most delightful companion in the colony, and the attractions of the festive board at Careswell were not a little heightened by the charms of his beautiful wife. In 1657 he married Penelope Pélham, by whom he had four children."

One of the first acts of Josiah Winslow, as governor, was in the exhibition of larger sympathy for the Quakers, than his predecessors, Gov. Prence, who was tyrannical towards them. Gov. Winslow at once liberated a Mr. Cudworth and a Mr. Robinson, of Scituate, who were imprisoned on account of uttering sympathy for the persecuted Quakers.

"The early colonists when they looked into their situation, must always have felt a deep apprehension of possible evils; a sense of insecurity; an anticipation of the desolation, and bloodshed of an Indian War. At the time of his death the question was settled, the aborigines were conquered, and such as remained in the vicinity of the English, were objects of commiseration rather than terror. In this great work Governor Winslow had been a principal and triumphant actor. His health was much impaired by the fatigues and exposures in King Phillip's War. He died at the early age of 53."

In King Phillip's Indian War, with their townsman, Josiah Winslow, general-in-chief, Marshfield furnished a full

share of soldiers. Those who were killed were: Thos Little—Joseph Eames—Joseph White—John Burrows—Joseph Phillips—Saml Bumpus & John Low.

Isaac Winslow, a son of Gov. Josiah Winslow, was town clerk of Marshfield for many years, and a Judge and President of the Provisional Council of Massachusetts Bay.

Gen. John Winslow, a son of above Isaac, was a member of General Court for many years, from 1739 to 1765, at various times was town clerk, selectman, and a great military leader.

A further account by Bacon, says of Gen. John Winslow, of Marshfield, great-grandson of Gov. Edward Winslow, that he led a battalion of New England soldiers in Gov. Shirley's Canadian expedition in 1755, and it was he who as commander of the English forces at Grand Pré, directed the harsh removal of the Arcadians from their homes in the lovely village on the shores of the basin of Minas, sending them into "Exile without any aid and without an example in story," and we might add the most unchristian and uncivilized act ever committed in America, an offshoot, in fact, of the "dark ages." Longfellow's poem, "Evangeline," pictures it more vividly than any prose account of it. Gen. Winslow, of course, was only a tool in the hands of the King, but more is the pity that it should have fallen to the lot of the great grandson of our forefather Winslow, who was so just and liberal in all his deeds.



## CHAPTER XXIX.

### *British Soldiers Quartered Here Among the Tories.*

Nathl Ray Thomas, who built and occupied the mansion before the Revolution, afterwards the residence of the Hon. Daniel Webster, was in direct line from Wm. Thomas, one of the first settlers of Marshfield. Mr. Thomas was a royalist. He was one of Gage's Madamus Councillors" (so called, because they were appointed to hold office during his pleasure, in place of being chosen annually by the popular assembly, as had been the method under the first charter).

"When affairs" says Bacon, "grew threatening, he went to Boston, there joined the British army and sailed off with it. on the evacuation, to Halifax, never to return. He built his mansion house in or about 1774, and it was the scene of a little affair which might have had large consequences had not a certain British officer displayed that discretion which we are told is the better part of valor. This affair happened in Marshfield shortly after the Lexington-Concord outbreak. A detachment of British troops called the 'Queen's Guards,' under Capt. Balfour, were quartered here in Mr. Thomas's mansion (now known as the 'Webster estate'), sent down from Boston, by Gage, at the request of the Loyalists of Marshfield and neighborhood, who feared trouble with the Patriots. In this house wine closets were constructed in the cellar by this British officer, Capt. Balfour, for the use of himself and officers, and were in existence until the house was burned a quarter of a century or more ago." Webster used them, let us hope, not too freely.

"The presence of the troops in the Old Colony was resented, and when the news of Lexington and Concord came,

it was determined to drive them out. Accordingly the Kingston and other minute men were one day marched over here. When near the place a halt was made, and a conference of officers was held, Capt. Wadsworth of the Kingston men, impatient of delay, marched his company alone to within a few rods of the enemy. His force, however, was too small to venture an attack; and while waiting for others to come up, the enemy quietly retreated by the back way, Balfour leading his troops through Cut River to British ships anchored off Brant Rock, by which they were conveyed back to Boston."

"Had the militia arrived three hours earlier, the second battle of the Revolution would, without doubt, have been fought in Marshfield."

"The 'Queen's Guards' were called the flower of the British Army in New England; and it is said that only five of the fine fellows, with their Captain, survived the battle of Bunker Hill."

Marshfield, it is said, was a center of Toryism at the outbreak of the Revolution. It maintained an organization called the "Associated Loyalists of Marshfield," in which 300 persons were enrolled. Nearly every member of the old Winslow family, then living here in Marshfield, were leading Associated Loyalists, and Dr. Isaac Winslow's house (the old Winslow's house now standing) was the chief place of meeting.

There was one Thomas, however, who was not a loyalist in the Revolution, but was a patriot worthy of note. This was Major Gen. John Thomas, born and reared on the ancestral home at Marshfield at or near the old Careswell Estate once occupied by Gov. Edward Winslow. He served in 1760 as Colonel in the American army at Crown Point. He was again called into service in 1775. He was somewhat indignant because another officer was promoted above him, and accordingly Gen. Charles Lee wrote him a letter

to take no notice of such a small matter. He was of such importance that Gen. George Washington wrote him a long letter showing him what a misfortune it would be to the army if he should resign, the example would be bad, and then reminded him of the excellent service he had already given to the country, etc., and in due time he abandoned his purpose and accepted the appointment of Lieutenant General of the army, and was foremost in the action at Dorchester Heights and other places in the early struggle, and afterwards was sent to Canada in command of the American forces, but the expedition proved disastrous, as history informs us, and while awaiting for reinforcements, he died of small pox in that country, although he had been a physician, practicing in Kingston."

## CHAPTER XXX.

### *Marshfield Fathers of the Revolution.*

It appears that in 1774 (the year preceding the Revolution), through the influence of Nathaniel Ray Thomas, a noted Tory, the town of Marshfield by a majority of only one vote passed a resolution, before mentioned, against the doings of Boston patriots in throwing the tea overboard in the Boston Harbor. Accordingly, not long after this Tory act was passed by the town, a company of patriots, prominent citizens, who might be styled the Marshfield Fathers of the Revolution, issued, after signing their names in bold relief [as did the signers later to the Declaration of Independence] to the following protest against the town's Tory action:

"We the subscribers think ourselves obliged in faithfulness to the community, ourselves & posterity, on every proper occasion to bear our public testimony against every measure calculated to destroy that harmony and unanimity which subsists through the Colonies & so eventually to the destruction of those liberties wherewith the Author of nature & our happy Constitution has made us free. Were they not already notorious, it would give us uneasiness to mention the Resolves which were voted in this town the 31st of January last. To the first of these resolves we do not object; but do heartily join in recognizing our loyalty & subjection to the King of Great Britain and our readiness to be ever subject to the laws of our Legislature. In their second Resolve, they say that the measures and proceedings in the town of Boston in the detention & destruction of the teas, belonging to the East India Co. are illegal, unjust & of a

dangerous tendency; against which we take the liberty to protest.

"We have long groaned under the weight of an American Revenue Act, and when by the virtue of the people in not purchasing any goods loaded with a duty, the malignity of the Act was in some measure evaded, a scheme was devised & prosecuted by the Ministry, to enforce said act by permitting the East India Co. to force their infectious teas upon us whether we would or not. At this, not only the inhabitants of Boston, but of the whole province were very much and very justly alarmed and while they were prosecuting every method that human wisdom would devise that the tea should be sent back undamaged, it was destroyed, but whether by the people of that town or any other town of the province does not appear. . . ."

"The occasion of this our protest has given us great uneasiness & we are confident those extraordinary resolves would not have taken place but by the insinuations of a certain gentleman who seems willing his constituents should share in the resentment of the whole country, which he has incurred by his conduct in a public character. We mean not to countenance riotous and disorderly conduct, but, being convinced that liberty is the life and happiness of a community, we are determined to contribute to our last mite in its defence against the machinations of assuming, arbitrary men, who, stimulated with a lust of dominion & unrighteous gain are ever studying to subjugate this free people.

"Dated Marshfield Feb. 14th, 1774—

Signed: Anthony Thomas—Nehemiah Thomas—Paul Sampson—John Brown.—Benj. White Jr.—John Oakman—Wm. Thomas—Leonard Delano—Joseph Oakman—Thomas Foord—Jabez Dingley—King Lapham—Thos. Waterman—Isaac Carver—Barnard Jules—Isaac Phillips—Thos. Dingley—Peleg Kent—Samuel Tilden—Samuel

Smith—Zenas Thomas—John Dingley—Thos. Waterman Jr.—Joshua Carver—Joseph Kent—Peleg Foord—Lot Howes Silvester—Benj. White—Asa Waterman—David Carver—Jos. Hewitt—John Waterman—Nathnl Thomas—Thos Fish—John Sherman—Wm Thomas Jr.—Jere. Low—Saml Tilden Jr.—Luther Peterson—Benj. Tolman—Samuel Oakman—Briggs Thomas—Jethro Taylor—Gershom Ewell—Elisha Kent—Samuel Williamson—Wm Clift—Timothy Williamson—Nathan Thomas—Jos. Bryant—Jos. Clift.”

What more stirring and patriotic utterance was given to the people than this, proclaimed a year and a quarter before the signing and issuing of the Declaration of Independence, and promulgated in a town (our town, it must be said, with a pang of sorrow), yes, a town which was the hotbed of toryism. The fathers of Marshfield, that is, the solid, substantial yeomen, had the daring, the strength and the courage of their convictions, and were not afraid in those heroic times to speak out, and the promulgation of that document places these patriots of Marshfield in the front rank with the early fathers of the Revolution.

W. T. Davis, in Plymouth County History, says: “Those who had resisted the popular movement were not permitted to go unpunished. Nathaniel Ray Thomas, characterized in ‘McFingal’ as that ‘Marshfield blunderer,’ an educated and influential man, and a graduate of Harvard, a man living on an estate including 1500 acres (since occupied by Daniel Webster), was proscribed and banished, his property was confiscated and during the remainder of his life, which ended in 1791, he made Nova Scotia his home. Ephraim Little, Cornelius White, John Baker, Joseph Tilden, John Tilden, Stephen Tilden and Nathaniel Garnet were imprisoned in Plymouth Jail for their toryism and released by order of Council, October, 1776, on condition they would pay the expenses of proceedings against them and remain on



their estates except for the purpose of attending worship on the Sabbath.

"Elisha Ford was imprisoned and released on the same terms, having at the same time been seized and carted to the Liberty Pole and required to sign a statement of allegiance. Caleb Carver, Melzar Carver, Thomas Decrew, and Daniel White were proscribed and banished in 1778. Paul White also was seized and carted to a Liberty Pole, where he was required to sign a recantation."

"The rolls of soldiers who enlisted during the Revolution in Marshfield are probably incomplete, but those in the archives of the state, and in possession of the writer (Mr. Davis), as they are, contain the following names:

"Members of the Company of Joseph Clift of Marshfield who enlisted for six months in 1775 are Joseph Clift—Jona. Hatch Sergt—Nathl Rogers—Job Mitchell—Anthony T. Hatch Corp.—Saml Tilden—Abner Crocker—Gershom Ewell—Jos Hatch—Asa Lapham—Amos Hatch—Chas Hatch—Wm Joyce—Wm Clift—Arumah Rogers—Job Ewell—Jesse Lapham—Lot H. Sylvester—Seth Joyce—Jona. Joyce—Nathl Joyce—Prince Hatch—Zaccheus Rogers—Tobias Oakman—Sami Jones—Caleb Lapham.

"Members of the Company of Capt. Thos Turner in the regiment of Col. John Bailey under Gen. Thomas (Marshfield) in 1775—Briggs Thomas Lieut.—Jona. Hatch Sergt—Wm Thomas Corp—Robt Glover—Nathl Rogers—Francis Gray—Jona. Low—Tobias White—Ezekiel Sprague—Peleg Kent—Thos Chandler—Alex. Garnet—Peleg Foord—Nathl Thomas—Brad. Baker—Luther Sampson—Tolman Baker—Job Mitchell—Saml Jones—Wm Joyce—Prince Hatch—Constant Oakman—John Hatch.

"In other Companies were Abijah Crocker—Capt. King Lapham—Lieut. Israel Rogers—ensn, John Bates—Isaac Bates—Wills Clift—Chas Kent—Nathl Kent—Asa Rogers—Jos Sprague—Andrew Pomp—Asa Lapham—Thos Rog-

ers—Abijah Rogers—Anthony Hatch—Benj. Hatch Sergt  
—Asa Rogers Corp., Bernard Tuels—Jona. Low—Peleg  
Foord—Wm. Baker—Eben Cain.

“ ‘In 1777—Ensign Ford—Josh. Turner—James Curtis  
—Othaniel Sikes—Eben. Barker—Wm Withington—John  
Chamberlain—Saml Norvett—John Bourne—John Borden  
—Peter Rider—John Randall.’ ”

“ ‘In 1778 Josiah Harmon—Wm Roper—Ed. Conolly—  
Thos Ward—John Richas—James Kearns—Anthony Mil-  
ler—Ezra Hathaway—Peter Hathaway—Abijah Hathaway  
—Benj. Cook.

“ ‘In 1779—Isaac Lapham—Asa Lapham—Cornelius  
Bacon.

“ ‘In 1780 Asa Soule—Wm Thomas—Luther Sampson—  
Thos Dingley—Jos Warrick—Job Turner—Wm Shurtleff  
—James Fillebrown—John Lincoln—Isaac Simmons—Jos  
Winslow—Allen Rogers—Geo. Osborn Jr—John Doten—  
Isaac Horton—Peter Booth—John McCarter.’ ”

In Marshfield, March 21st, 1773, it is written: “In the  
night, the inhabitants there were waked with a very loud  
noise and considerable jar of the houses, which they took  
to be an earthquake; but it is since conjectured that it was  
occasioned by the severe frost as it was heard several times,  
sometimes louder than at others, by many, who rose imme-  
diately. The ground is cracked in many places several  
yards in length so wide that a man may put his whole arm  
into the chasms.”

## CHAPTER XXXI.

### *Town Record Selections.*

"Mch. 23—1778—At a town meeting 'the question' was put to know the town's mind whether they are willing that part of Scituate called the '*Two Mile*' should be annexed to the town of Marshfield on certain conditions to be complied with and it passed in the affirmative."

1778.

"Articles of Confederation were read and after considering thereon the question was put to know the town's mind whether they will instruct their representative to act and do as he shall think most for the advantage of this and the other United States relative to Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union between them, the votes passed in the Affirmative."

1779.

"The question was put to know the mind of the town whether that when more soldiers shall be called for, that they shall be raised by the town and not by separate Parishes or Companies, & it passed in the affirmative."

"At said meeting the question was put to know the town's mind whether they are willing that part of Scituate called *Two Mile* should be annexed to the town of Marshfield on the condition that they, the petitioners, will find themselves a way or road or roads from their highway to Marshfield line, & also that they build themselves a school-house, if one is wanting, without any cost to the town of Marshfield, which conditions, we the petitioners, oblige ourselves, our heirs & assigns to perform, & it passed in the affirmative. 51 votes for it & 33 against it."

"At a town meeting held at the South meeting house in

Marshfield, July 12th, the question was put to know the town's mind whether they will choose a man to go to Concord, and the vote passed in the affirmative unanimous. And then they proceeded & made choice of Capt. Thomas Waterman as a delegate to join and co-operate with a convention of delegates from the several committee of correspondence, &c. in this state, to meet at Concord on Wednesday, the 14th of July, inst., for the purpose of forming such arrangements and adopting such measures as shall be necessary to carry into effect by common consent the object before us."

1779.

"Prices to regulate Inholders, teaming, manufacturers and other Articles in proportion to the rates of the necessities of Life, as stated in the first resolve of the said convention.

"N. E. Rum in continental money, \$3.33 1-3 pr. quart and \$1.66 2-3 pr. mug. A Dinner, \$1.66 2-3—Supper or Breakfast, \$1.33 1-3—Highest price day's labor, \$8.33. Sheep's wool, \$4.50—Salt hay at landing, \$66.66 pr. ton—Oak wood at landing, \$22.00 pr. cord."

"A committee of inspection was appointed to look out for any offenders who disregard these rules & prices, and publish their names that the public may abstain from all trade and conversation with them."

1780.

"The assessors were ordered to make an assessment on the inhabitants of this town to raise the sum of £648 or \$2,160, to pay the soldiers in hard money, encluding the two miles "cota" (quota) which is one man and three quarters."

1780—June 19.

"The question was put to know the town's mind whether they will allow each soldier that shall enlist & past muster for one of the eighteen men sent for from this town to join the Continental Army for the term of six months, the sum

of twenty dollars per month, including the forty shillings per month allowed by the state in hard money, and that the money be reduced to a bushel of Indian corn at six shillings per bushel & rye at nine shillings per bushel as to the town's part, and it shall be at their option to take either the corn & grain or hard money."

"And they proceeded and chose Messrs. Thos Ford—Nathl Ford—Asa Waterman—Lemuel Little—Dea. John Tilden and John White as a committee to assist Capt. Clift and Capt. Dingley in procuring said 18 men, &c."

"A vote was also passed that a committee of forty be chosen to procure one soldier each at as reasonable rate as he can, & bring in the bill to the town and procure corn and other articles which they promised said soldiers in behalf and cost of town."

1780.

"It was ordered that the Selectmen be desired and directed to hire the money or procure the beef at six pence per pound in the new emission, the eight thousand weight of which is the town's "Cota" for the Continental Army, or ordered by a resolve of the General Court, and that they be allowed 4 shillings per day in the old way for their time spent in that service."

1781.

"Voted to procure 15 more soldiers, the town's quota for the army, and for this town's quota of beef for the Continental Army, the sum of ten thousand pounds, £10000 (continental money) also voted to procure 3 soldiers to go to Rhode Island. Also agreed that those persons that will turn in beef for the Continental Soldiers shall be allowed 4<sup>d</sup> per lb. for what goes to pay the town tax, and six pence for what goes to pay their Commonwealth tax, and what remains due them after 25th, December next, to be allowed 4 pence pr. lb. and interest till paid. Voted the town be taxed for 6192 pounds of beef."

1785.

"At town meeting held in South meeting house, ordered that a bridge be built across the North River between Dea. Saml Tilden's in Marshfield, and Mr. Saml Curtis, Inn holder in Scituate, if the aforesaid bridge is built without cost to this town. At said meeting Dea Saml Tilden and Thos Rogers, the 3rd, were chosen committee to petition the General Court for liberty to build the above said bridge by *lottery* or subscription."

1786.

"At town meeting the question was put to know the town's mind whether they are willing to have that part of Scituate called '*Two Mile*' annexed to the town of Marshfield, on the conditions that were formerly proposed, & it passed in the affirmative."

1787—Dec. 17.

"The town made choice of the Rev. Mr. Wm. Shaw to represent them in the convention of delegates from the several towns in this Commonwealth who are by the recommendation of the legislature to meet at the State House in Boston on Wednesday, the 9th of January next, for to give their assent to & ratify the constitution, or frame of government, proposed to the United States by the late convention, who meet at Philadelphia for that purpose."

*"A meeting to elect Representative to Congress and Electors for President & Vice President in Marshfield."*

"At a legal town meeting held at the South meeting house, Dec. 18th, 1788, in Marshfield. The votes were brought in, sorted, & counted in presence of the Selectmen for a Representative for this district in the Congress of the United States, which were as follows, viz: For the Hon. Nathan Cushing, Esq., 12 votes, unanimous. At same time the votes were brought in for two persons as candidates for Electors of President & Vice President of the United States, which were as follows: For the Hon. Danl



Howard, Esq., 12 votes, and for the Hon. Solomon Freeman, Esq., 12 votes.

Apr. 5, 1789.

"For the purpose of choosing Governor, Lieut. Governor and Senators for the present year. The votes were brought in, and sorted and counted in presence of the Selectmen, which were as follows, viz:

For Governor, His Excellency, John Hancock, had 25 votes.

For Governor, Hon. James Bowdoin had 18 votes.

For Lieut. Governor, Geo. Walton, Esq., had 18 votes.

For Lieut. Governor, Hon. Samuel Adams, Esq., had 7 votes.

For Lieut. Governor, Nath<sup>l</sup> Gorham, Esq., had 7 votes.

For Lieut. Governor, Mr. David Cook had 2 votes.

For Senators, Hon. Dan<sup>l</sup> Howard had 28 votes.

For Senators, Tho<sup>s</sup> Davis had 32 votes.

For Senators, Capt. Jos. Bryant had 30 votes.

For Senators, Ephraim Spooner had 5 votes.

For Senators, John Thomas had 1 vote."

1791.

"The town made choice of Jedediah Little to serve as collector for the present year, and to give said Little 11<sup>d</sup> on the £ for his services on all taxes he collects."

1792.

"Selectmen were directed to provide a house for any that shall be taken with the *small pox* & see that they be removed to it. a committee was chosen to assist the Selectmen with regard to the small pox."



## CHAPTER XXXII.

### *Ship building in Marshfield on the North River.*

Ship building in Marshfield, on the river, has been in past years quite an important industry. A stranger looking at the river now, can hardly believe that it was the scene of so much activity a half century and a century ago, in fact, the citizen of Marshfield to-day, unless he has passed a half a century, can hardly realize the change that has taken place. My authority in these records of the ship building in our town, is culled from 'Briggs' excellent history of Ship Building on the North River."

"There were many vessels built on the North River about the beginning of the Nineteenth Century. There were between twenty and thirty vessels built on this river annually."

"At the 'Brick Kiln' ship yard in Marshfield, was built the ship 'Beaver' by Ichabod Thomas. It was one of the tea ships of Boston harbor, from which the tea was thrown overboard by the famous Tea Party in 1773."

## CHAPTER .XXXIII.

### *Captains Sailing on North River.*

Briggs says, "Tobias Oakman, of Oakman's Ferry, was master of a packet sloop many years ago, sailing from North River Bridge, in Hanover, to Boston, for over 40 years. Capt. David Church was his successor. Capt. Church was well known in history, and was called by the old settlers a substantial man. He had many peculiarities, one of which was his manner of dress. With the exception of his boots and shoes, every garment he wore was made in his own house of wool from his flock of sheep, or flax from his field. He wore everything its natural color, and his trousers were always tucked into his stockings. It is said he was never known to wear a dyed garment. The shipbuilders had so much confidence in him that he made nearly all their purchases. At one time he went into a Boston store, where he had not before traded, to purchase five tons of iron, and while making his inquiries, he noticed that they regarded him with some suspicion. 'Foggs,' said Capt. Church, 'you look at me as if you had some doubts about me, I want you to understand that I do not come out of North River without five or six thousand dollars about me.' He then took a package of several thousand dollars from his pocket. The firm replied, 'we are pleased to make your acquaintance, and shall be happy to attend to all your requests.' "

"Timothy Williamson used to run a packet sloop between Boston and North River. He was a great gunner, and being usually the only man on board his small craft, he would begin firing his flint lock some time before reaching the draw bridge in order to have it opened for him. Those liv-

ing in the region of Little's bridge remember hearing the bang! bang! bang! and they always knew it was Tim Williamson coming up the river. He was a high-tempered fellow, and a smart workman, and used to pilot vessels out of the river from the yards above. He once had a terrible fight with a shark, near Little's bridge, which he finally killed. He ran his sloop from about 1840 to 1846, and finally accidentally shot himself, being injured for life.

Until 1820, or later, every male citizen was obliged to keep a gun and 24 rounds of ammunition. Inspection was the first Tuesday in May, and if the gun lacked good order, was not properly oiled, or the flint was not right, a fine was imposed."

The author remembers well when Capt. Asa Sherman (who was living in 1900 in the Ferry district) ran the sloop from North River to Boston, nearly half a century ago. My partner, the late Clift Rodgers, then doing business in Boston under the firm of Rodgers, Richards & Co., was the largest owner of the Packet, and Capt. Sherman used to come into our office and report progress in the running of the Packet, passing to Mr. Rodgers his accounts to be examined at his leisure. He seemed an old man then, bent over by hard work, but young, comparatively, to the century he nearly reached in 1900. In his early days he ran his packet to collect freight up the North River as far as North River bridge in Hanover. His stopping places on the way were at "the Brick Kiln"—"Job's Landing"—"Foster's Landing"—"Briggs' Landing"—"Union Bridge"—Little's Bridge" and "White's Ferry."

I also remember Capt. Chas L. Tilden, now living at an advanced age, running a packet from North River to Boston. He, also, ran up the River, and had eight landing places at different points thereon, but after the railroad was built, the packet business, and all commercial navigation on the river began to decline, and not for a quarter of a century

has any packet, or any other vessel of commerce, run regularly up and down the river. Nothing but small pleasure yachts are now seen on the river, and very few of them. When the railroad was built they failed to put in a good, rapid moveable draw on the bridge, and hence navigation from that and other causes has practically ceased on the river. A dozen years ago there was a movement made by some of the towns bordering on the river, for a hearing before the Harbor Commissioners to induce, or force the Old Colony Railroad Co. to build a draw, and the author of this history was engaged, by interested parties in Marshfield, to attend the hearing, in company with delegates from other towns. A good argument was presented, but the all powerful railroad magnates carried the day, and the thing called, by courtesy, a draw, which requires a day or two to move and put back again in its place, still exists, to the detriment of navigation on this river. Our large forests, it is claimed, can be put on the market, especially the Boston market, in the form of cord wood, with much reduced rates of freight on the river than by the present mode of transit on the N. Y., N. H. & H. railroad.

## CHAPTER XXXIV.

### *Ship Yards at Gravelly Beach and Little's Bridge.*

From "Briggs' Ship Building History," I find there were two ship yards in Marshfield, one at Gravelly Beach, North Marshfield, near where the late Benj. White lived, and the other in close proximity to Little's Bridge in Marshfield, and these were known as the Roger's yards.

"Peleg—Luther and possibly Nathaniel, Jr., and Thomas Rogers, Jr., built at the latter yard, and nearly all of the following built at Gravelly Beach yard: Israel—Amos—Joseph—Asa—Asa, Jr.—Samuel and Thomas Rogers and all worked at various periods in nearly every yard on the river. The Rogerses were skilled carpenters, and if any one wanted a ship built on honor, a Rogers was his man. There is a tradition in the family, that John Rogers was related to John Rogers, the martyr, [in England, who, history says, had nine children and one at the breast, and the question is an open one to this day, how many children had he?] but this tradition needs verification before being accepted as correct. Timothy Rogers was among the first of that name we find in Marshfield. He was born in 1698, and married Lydia, daughter of Israel Hatch, of 'Two Mile.' They had eleven children."

"Marshfield has the name of having many fires, woods and houses both. There used to be a young man who came down to one of the yards to see the ship carpenters, and who was not called very bright. One day he was telling about a great fire in Marshfield woods, when he said what grieved him most was to see the poor little rabbits running out of the woods with their tails burned off."

Luther Rogers, father of the late Clift Rogers, built, or

hired built, several vessels on his farm, at what is known as Roger's Corners at Marshfield Hills, formerly East Marshfield. The spot where they were built, especially the Abigail (named after his wife) was upon what is now the author's lawn, near the drive way, on top of Richard's Hill. I have heard my late father-in-law say (a son of the above Luther) that when the vessel was completed, a hundred yoke of oxen were engaged to draw the sloop across the fields in a bee line for the river to Little's Bridge, and after the task was done the vessel was launched in the river. It is claimed that he had his vessels built on his farm, a mile away from the water, rather than down on the shore by the river, because it was more convenient for the workmen, and then he could watch its construction at better advantage than a mile away, although, according to tradition, as I have heard it from the living, his voice was so strong he could be heard a mile, his weight being about 300. He had a store at the "Corners," adjoining his house, and being strong and powerful himself, he expected from others more than they could stand. One day he wanted his hired man to shoulder a barrel of flour and carry it up stairs to the loft, and seeing after a trial or two that his man did not succeed, he said to him, "Seems to me you are making a good deal of fuss over that, let me take it," and he soon shouldered it and marched up stairs. His man, espying a bag of salt lying at the foot, weighing from 50 to 100 pounds, tossed it on top of the barrel to test his strength, and when he arrived at the loft, and the freight emptied, espying the bag of salt, he said he thought the barrel was a little heavier than common.

To get a supply of goods for his store he would ride to Boston in a tip cart, with no blanket over his limbs in the dead of winter, to protect them. He lived to a good age, and left a substantial property to his children.

## CHAPTER XXXV.

### *Brooks & Tilden Ship Yard and other Yards.*

Briggs' work says, "The Brooks & Tilden yard was located about 40 rods above Union Bridge on the Marshfield bank of the North River, and on land formerly owned by Hatch Tilden, adjoining the highway which runs over the bridge. The William Taylor yard was also located on the Marshfield side of North River, a few rods below Little's Bridge, on land then owned by Edward P. Little, and now owned by Mr. Stoddard. The following are records of some of the vessels built between 1784 and 1809."

"In 1784, the sloop 'Abigail,' 50 tons, of Marshfield, was built. Jacob Bearstow of this town owned her. Also in 1784 the Brig't'n Williams, 135 tons, was built in Marshfield, and afterward foundered at sea. The same year, 1784, the schooner Polly, 52 tons, was built, Joseph, Mary and Mercy Phillips, owners. Afterwards sold to Barnstable. There was built in Marshfield in 1786 the sloop 'Sally,' 44 tons, of Marshfield, Benjamin Hatch of Marshfield and Charles Hatch of Pembroke, owners. The same year the sloop 'Juno', 90 tons, of Marshfield, Elisha Ford and Jona. Ford of Marshfield, owners. In 1792 there was built in Marshfield the brig 'Debby', 107 tons, of Boston, and the next year two vessels, the schooner, afterwards Brig't'n, 'Helen', 100 tons, of Boston, and the sloop 'North River', 27 tons, owned by Charles and Benjamin Hatch, of Marshfield, and Seth Hatch, of Pembroke. Scollay Baker began building a square sterned schooner in Marshfield in 1800, named 'Polly', 114 tons. Prince Hatch built in 1801 the schooner 'Three Friends,' 74 tons, of Barnstable. Elisha Ford, Jr., built in Marshfield, 1802, the brig 'Eliza', 165



tons, of Marshfield, owned by Elisha Ford, Sr. and Jr. of Marshfield. In 1809 Aaron Sherman built in Marshfield the sloop 'Polly', 35 tons, owned by Benj. Rogers and Ellen Sherman of Marshfield. Aaron Sherman lived near the South Baptist meeting house, Marshfield, vulgarly called the 'Old Skunk.' While vessels were building on this beautiful river shore, other vessels were being destroyed on her rocky coast, driven before the easterly gales, and many are the sailors who have found their graves in the sands of this town. In Brooks & Tilden yard, Elijah Brooks and Geo. Tilden built here in the thirties of the 19th century for about ten years. Here the schooner 'Huron, 106 tons, was built, and in the same year the brig, 'Lewis Bruce', 113 tons. In 1838 they built the schooner 'Eric', 113 tons, also built the brig 'Michigan' and schooner 'Roanoke.' In 1840 they built the brig, 'Joseph Balch', 153 tons; in 1843, Mr. Brooks built the brig, 'Alden King', 206 tons. This was probably the last vessel built at this yard. The Wm. Taylor yard, before mentioned, located near Little's Bridge, on land now owned by Mr. Stoddard, was occupied in 1848 by Wm. Taylor and Israel Carver, and then known as the Taylor & Carver yard. In 1848 the schooner, 'Lake', 74 tons, was built, 67 feet long, break deck. In 1850 was built the schooner 'Horn'. The 'Souther' was built here by Israel Carver about 1860. Taylor and Carver built a schooner of about 70 tons, probably the 'Edie Little', named after Edw. P. Little's wife. Mr. Taylor, it was said, was a very humorous man, and loved to tell his boyish pranks. For some fancied or real slight, by a bevy of girls, in his younger days, he induced them to ride in a tip-cart, which he was driving, and coming to quite a deep, swift running brook, he withdrew the fastenings and dumped them all into the water, from which they emerged more wet than hurt."

"On this same river, where so many vessels have been built, the first American vessel that ever circumnavigated

the globe, was built by James Briggs at Hobart's Landing in 1773, on the other side of the river in Scituate. This was the ship 'Columbia', 220 tons, which also explored the great river in Oregon, named after this vessel, Columbia river. She was the first vessel from this country to visit the Northwest coast. The *White's Ferry* yards in Marshfield were quite extensive. Vessels were built at these yards at different times from 1705 to 1840. The Keenes and the Halls built at these yards for many years, but they were probably occupied nearly a hundred years prior to their time. As early as 1705, 'Mary and Abigail' was built there, capacity 40 tons, and in 1711 a ship, and in 1713 a sloop were built there. The builders at this yard were Simeon Keene, Simeon Keene, Jr., Benj. Keene—Isaac Keene—Luke Hall—Wm. Hall and Sam<sup>l</sup> Hall. The Halls began in 1825, and by them alone there were built here thirty vessels, between 1825 and 1840."

These added to the other vessels built in Marshfield ship yards, shows emphatically what a prominent part Marshfield took in ship building on the North River in the first six decades of the last century.

The following incidents Briggs tells in his book: "Last Tuesday a whale about 40 feet long was discovered by a small fishing schooner, off Marshfield, which was being attacked by three sharks, one of whom the fisherman killed. It measured 16 feet long, and upon opening it they took out of its paunch many pieces of the whale, as would make a barrel of oil, and it was thought the liver of the shark would make two or three barrels more. The whale was so wounded and worried by the sharks that it became an easy prize for the fisherman, who carried it into Marshfield."

"In Marshfield, in 1760, died Mr. Wm. Carver, aged 102 years, who retained his reason to the last. He was a nephew to Gov. Carver of the Plymouth Colony, and has left behind him the fifth generation of male issue in all, chil-

dren, grand children, great grand-children and great, great grand children, ninety-six."

Many families in Marshfield, bearing the name of Carver, at present, in 1901, are descendants of the brother of Gov. Carver, as stated above, and not of the first governor of the Colony as commonly supposed, he leaving no children.

## CHAPTER XXXVI.

### *Ferries in Marshfield.*

"In 1638," says Briggs, "a ferry was established at North River by Jona. Brewster of Duxbury. This ferry was a place called New Harbor Marsh, and it is now called 'White's Ferry.' Jona. Brewster was the first ferryman. In 1641 Mr. Brewster sold his ferry privilege to Messrs. Barker, Howell & Co., for £60. In 1645 it was kept by Ralph Chapman, who in 1656 implored the Court to excuse him, as it would bring him to extreme poverty, etc. He was excused except on special occasions, as bringing the magistrates over who dwell there."

There was shipbuilding going on at this place in early days, and a wharf for the landing of goods, a part of which is seen at the present day. A long bridge near this wharf and the old ferry was built about a couple of decades ago for the purpose of accommodating the proprietors of Hotel Humarock and other householders on the Humarock beach on the opposite side of the river. The County Commissioners, at the time of writing this history, have required the towns of Scituate and Marshfield to support the bridge, Scituate keeping their side up to the channel of the river, about two thirds across, in good repair, and Marshfield their side up to the channel.

Briggs, in his book, says: "At Union Bridge (between Norwell and Marshfield) there was a public ferry boat as early as 1644. Union Bridge was built soon after 1801 as a toll bridge. Hatch Tilden was toll collector for more than forty years. He lived in the house near the bridge on the easterly side of the road in Marshfield. It was made a free bridge in 1850."

"At Little's bridge, between Scituate and Marshfield, there was a ferry as early as 1637, which year 200 acres of land were granted to Mr. William Vassall, on condition 'he keepe a ferry against his farm, toll 1d for a man & 4d for a beast.' This was then called 'New Harbor Ferry.' The ferry was located in front of his residence, which was on 'Belle House Neck,' Scituate. In 1730 this ferry was kept by Thomas Doggett, the first of that name, who married Joanne, widow of Thomas Chillingworth, of Marshfield. After Captain Doggett took the ferry, it was called 'Doggett's Ferry.' In 1755 Captain Doggett's son, Captain John, Jr., then only fifteen years of age, kept the ferry.

"Thomas Doggett, the first, bought a farm in 1659, where he lived until his death in 1692. This farm was a portion of the upland overlooking the mouth of the North River and an extensive view of the ocean beyond. It was the first farm on the Marshfield side of the river, with one of the dividing lines starting opposite the point where the North and South Rivers enter the sea."

"Among the descendants of Thomas Doggett were many who were mariners. Samuel Doggett, a grandson of Thomas, was the first of the family called 'Mariner,' and he began sailing from North River about the year 1700. His homestead was a piece of upland containing thirty acres of land, together with five acres of marsh, now called 'Bryant's pasture,' which is located near where the railroad bridge crosses the river, and was bounded on one side by the river; 'beginning at the mouth of ye great creek by ye North River.' Samuel Doggett was town treasurer of Marshfield for several years, and prominent in the shipping interests of the river from which he sailed. He was interested in the settlement of Maine, and combined with Boston capitalists, he used his vessels to carry families there to settle. Many of these were Marshfield people, who doubtless sailed for their new home from North River. The

growth of Boston and Mr. Doggett's increasing interests there led him to leave Marshfield in 1744 and make his home there, where he soon afterward died."

"A toll bridge was erected at Doggett's Ferry in 1825 and called 'Little's Bridge,' from a family of that name who lived near, on the Marshfield side." The author remembers, when a young man, living in his native town of Quincy, Mass., of driving to Marshfield occasionally, and being obliged to stop and draw his wallet to pay toll at a house close to the bridge on the Marshfield side, now, in 1900, owned by the town and let as a residence.

During his drive from Quincy to Marshfield, he was stopped on turnpikes and bridges for toll two or three times, which was certainly a great nuisance, and the law passed by the state freeing all bridges and turnpikes was certainly a righteous act. Not only was toll collected on crossing a bridge, but for passage over a road, oftentimes the main thoroughfare through a town, if it happened to be built by a company of individuals. It was called a "turnpike," and towards supporting it, including the payment of a good interest on the capital invested in the turnpike, a toll was laid and collected on every carriage or team passing thereon. Little's Bridge was made free March 20th, 1865.

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

### *Town Record Selections.*

1794.

"Benj. Simmons was excused from serving as *Tithingman* the present year. Voted to choose Jabez Dingley to serve Tithingman the present year."

"Ordered George Little for to keep Winsor, a negro man of this instant May: the said Geo. Little is to keep the town clear of all expense in sickness and health except doctor's bill & clothes for said Winsor, also the Selectmen are to bind the Said Winsor for one year to the above said Geo. Little if he lives, or in the same proportion if he the said Winsor dies."

#### *War of 1812 with Great Britain.*

"Voted to give every Soldier £6 per month enclusing the Continental pay, that is drafted or enlist in said service, the town to have the priveledge to get men in their room."

"Voted that the Selectmen be directed to procure a man, in any man's room that enlists or is drafted, that is n't willing to go in said service if called for."

1814.

"In the South Meeting House a town meeting was held agreeable to a petition of Capt. Bourne Thomas and others wishing to know the minds of the town whether they will adopt any measures for the defence of the people and property of said Town against an invading enemy or do or act any way relative to the subject they in their wisdom may think proper. Capt. John Thomas was chosen moderator. Ordered that the Selectmen petition his excellency the Governor for a chest of small arms & two field pieces with powder, balls &c. immediately. Ordered that the Commis-



sioned officers of each Company supply the soldiers under their command with 20 pair catridges each, they being responsible for the same & that they procure suitable paper at the expense of the town and bring in their account for that & their trouble."

1815.

"Gave the soldiers who were drafted to serve in the war from Marshfield two dollars in addition to their state's pay per month."

"Arannah Ford was allowed three cents on the dollar for collecting the State, County, & town taxes the ensuing year, he procuring bondsmen."

1817.

*Form of Town Warrant for Election.*

*Property Qualification for Voting.*

"To either of the Constables of the Town of Marshfield Greeting: You are hereby required in the name of the Commonwealth of Mass. to notify and warn the inhabitants of the said Town of Marshfield duly qualified to vote for Representative in the General Court of said Commonwealth viz: the male inhabitants of said town being twenty one years of age & resident in said town for the space of one year next proceeding, having a freehold estate within said town of the annual income of *three pounds* or any estate to the value of *60 pounds* to assemble at the South meeting house in said town on Monday the 27th day of Jan. instant at one O'clock P. M. to give in their votes for a representative of the people of said Commonwealth, in the Congress of the United States for the Plymouth district."

## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

### *Public Schools in Marshfield.*

The Old South School, located at South Marshfield and established in 1645, was among the earliest public schools in New England. An account of this school was given in an historical address by Mrs. Sarah E. Bosworth, of Pembroke, Mass. (formerly a pupil of the school in later days), before the reunion of the Old South School in Marshfield, Sept. 10th, 1891, and from which sketch I make the following quotations:

"Two years after Green Harbor became a township, and but one after it was first called Marshfield, we find the first recorded act in regard to town education, passed June 14, 1642, and in August, 1645, Marshfield made the first movement toward a public school in the Plymouth Colony by twelve of her principal men, including Edward Winslow and others, pledging themselves not only to pay for their own children's schooling, but a certain sum towards others. This act passed in 1642, was revised in stronger language in 1658, and printed in the General Laws of the Colony in 1660, and is as follows:

" 'Forasmuch as the good Education of children is of Singular behoofe and benefit to any Commonwealth, and whereas many Parents and Masters are too indulgent and negligent of their duty in that kind;' 'It is ordered that ye chosen men appointed for managing the prudential affairs in the several precincts and quarters where they dwell, shall have a vigilant eye over their neighbors, to see First, That none of them shall suffer so much barbarism in any of the families, as not to endeavor to teach by themselves or others, their Children and apprentices so much learning as shall

enable them to read perfectly the English tongue and Knowledge of the Capital laws, upon penalty of twenty shillings for each neglect therein.'

"Under date of 1663 I find this: 'It is proposed by the Court unto the several townships of this jurisdiction as a thing they ought to take into Serious Consideration that some course may bee taken that in every towne there may bee a schoolmaster sett up to traine children to reading and writing.' But 'ye chosen men' did not seem to take it into consideration as I can find; so again, in a court held March 4, 1670, the subject of schools was agitated, and a grant was made of 'all such profitts as might or should annually accrew or grow dew to this Colony from time to time from fishing with nets or saines att Cape Cod for Mackerell, basse, or herrings, to be imployed and improved for and toward a free school in some town in this jurisdiction for the training up of youth in littrature for the good & benefit of pesteritie, provided a beginning was made within one year.' And the 'ordering of said affair was to be the charge of the Governor and Assistants, or any four of them.' And said free school was established in Plymouth, and Mr. Thomas Hinckley was appointed 'Steward of the said schoole.'"

"But there does not appear to have been any action in regard to the act of 1663, that a school master should be 'set up' in every town. But at a court held at Plymouth Nov. 1, 1667, there was an 'order passed,' closely resembling one of 1663, resulting in establishing a free school in most of the towns of the Colony and sharing with Plymouth the profits of the 'Cape Cod fisheries.' In 1701 it is recorded that 'the laws of learning which are wholesome and necessary are shamefully neglected by Divers Towns, and the penalty thereof not required tending greatly to the Nourishment of Ignorance and Irreligion. The Penalty thereof shall henceforth be twenty pounds per annum.'

"And this new provision was added, 'That evry school

master be approved by the Ministers of the two next adjacent towns, or any two of them by certificate under their hands.' And the 'justices of the peace in each county are directed to take Care that the laws respecting schools and school masters be duly observed and put in execution.' But in 1718 the penalty for non-observance of the laws was increased to 'thirty pounds on every town that shall have the number of 150 families and forty pounds on every town that shall have 200 families and so prorato.'

"You see these men were in earnest to all that concerned 'Posteritie,' even though they were willing to be only stepping stones. In 1789 an act was passed which divided the towns into school districts because of the 'dispersed situation of the inhabitants of the several towns in this Commonwealth the children and youth cannot be collected in any one place for their instruction, it has become expedient that the towns be divided into separate districts for the purpose aforesaid.' And it 'shall be the duty of the ministers of the gospel and the selectmen or such other persons as shall be especially chosen by each town or district for that purpose to use their influence and best endeavor that the youth of their respective towns do regularly attend the schools and once in six months at least, and as much oftener as they shall determine it necessary to visit and inspect the several schools in their respective towns and districts, and shall inquire into the regulation and discipline thereof, and the proficiency of the scholars therein, giving reasonable notice of their visitation.'

"It was in Section 9 of this act that mention is first made of the school mistress: 'That no person shall be allowed to be a master or mistress of such school, or to keep the same unless he or she shall obtain a certificate from the Selectmen of such town or district where the same may be kept or the committee appointed by such town to visit their schools as well as from a learned minister settled therein

that he or she is a person of sober life and conversation and well qualified to keep such school. Penalty forty shillings.'

"But there had been 'school dames' before this to instruct the children during the summer in reading, sewing and knitting. In 1800, Feb. 28, an act was passed 'That the Selectmen were authorized to issue warrants for district meetings; the voters authorized to choose a clerk, raise money for the erection and repairs of school-houses,' etc. In 1817 school districts were made corporations in name, and empowered 'to hold in fee simple or otherwise real and personal estate for the use of schools.' And in 1827 districts were first authorized to 'choose school agents,' to whom were confided the care of the houses and the important trust of selecting and hiring teachers.

"But previous, on March 4, 1826, an act was approved 'That each town in this Commonwealth shall at its annual March or April Meeting choose a Committee of not less than five persons, who shall have the general charge and supervision of all the schools in town.' And that year Marshfield chose her first school board, consisting of Martin Parris, Azel Ames, Elijah Leonard, Charles Macomber and Thomas Conant.

"The schoolhouse where our grandfathers went to school was on the 'Common,' near the site of Dr. Paine's tomb. And surely 't was a rustic school room. From the door of that house they watched one September day in 1774 'substantial yeomanry' of Pembroke, Scituate, Hanover and Marshfield march by on their way to rout, and punish a public officer who had not proved faithful to the 'welfare of the Commonwealth and Posteretie.' But in December, 1774, they watched a more terrible sight, when Gen. Balfour, followed by his fine company of Queen's Guards, marched by, their bayonets glistening in the winter's sunshine, to take up quarters in their town 'to protect every faithful subject to his King so that he dare utter his thoughts, fully

drink his tea and kill his sheep as profusely as he pleased.' They saw the blackened rock, where the tea was fired by that dead, earnest old Whig, whom they always looked upon with veneration; they saw that other gathering of staunch yeomanry early in 1775, armed not with glistening bayonets, but scythes, forks, anything they could get, and who were deady in earnest, and 'would fight to the death every mother's son of them,' march down from Col. Anthony Thomas' to this site, where they saw the going of Gen. Balfour and his troops, to embark upon vessels lying off Brant Rock.

"That 'staunch yeomanry' doubtless saved the soil of Marshfield from being reddened with the blood of the second revolution. They witnessed Capt. Thomas go to the top of Ward or 'Pudding' Hill and fire the three signal alarm guns, while young Charles Thomas beat the drum to let the surrounding inhabitants know that hostilities had commenced the morning after the battle of Lexington. They heard the creak of the oxcart at midnight which removed the town's powder from yonder bedroom and the women and children to places of greater safety, when armed British vessels lay in the bay. . . . But in such barren schoolhouses were trained the men who carried through the Revolutionary period, a miracle second only to the multitude being fed in the wilderness; they held with a firm and bloody grasp the rights of freeman to transmit to 'posterity.' "

In an address at the same reunion, delivered by the late Rev. Ebenezer Alden, he adds some historical facts concerning the South school, which I will quote. "The old South school, its duration is covered by a period of 134 years, extending from 1722 to 1856. March 4, 1822, the town voted to sanction a division of the old South school district, establish a line, remove the old schoolhouse and build a new one. . . . April 2, 1810, the town was



divided into four school districts: South, Church, North, and Two Mile. The South was the part of the town south of South river, and probably a section northwest of the river. A schoolhouse of that earlier period stood where Mr. F. W. Hatch's stable, near where the railroad station now is, and earlier a school house was on the town land, now occupied by the cemetery south of the road.

"The oldest South school was in existence in 1645, four years after the incorporation of the town. It was established and supported by Edward Winslow, Thomas Bourne, Edward Bulkley, and others. 'This was the first movement towards a public school in either of the New England Colonies.' Brief and restricted as is the history of this school, it has the distinguished honor of being the legitimate successor of the pioneer school which inaugurated the system of public schools which has largely formed the character of our nation.

"The site of the schoolhouse is on the land given to the town by the Colony and enlarged in territory by William Thomas for the maintenance of religious institutions which in early days held a place, though closely associated with them, higher than the educational.

"Before the first old school in 1632, was the old South church, the thatched roofed meeting house of which stood on or by the side of the location of the first burying ground. A few rods south of this site stood the first old South parsonage, occupied by Mr. Bulkely, and a few rods west the second parsonage, occupied by Mr. Arnold and others, and a few rods west of the third parsonage, associated with this spot, is the ecclesiastical history of this town, its progress in religion, in education, in social life, and material prosperity for two hundred years."

In a letter, William J. Baker, of North Pembroke, says: "The old South schoolhouse that 'we went to school in' (a half century or more ago) was situated near the residence



of the late R. H. Moorhead where 'four ways meet.' It is converted into a tenement across the road opposite the former site and owned by John Carver." The living graduates have formed an association, called the "Old South School Association." President, George M. Baker, and its secretary is Erastus E. Williamson. A reunion is held annually.

In the year 1700 I find a record of the public school system. Here the town did "then or there vote that Dr. Little should supply the place of schoolmaster for the instructing of youth in reading, writing & ciphering in the said town for the year ensuing & then promise & engage to the said town so to do. Also the town made choice of Mr. Samuel Sprague to be their Agent to answer in behalf of the town in respect of a presentiment that is made of the said town for defect of or not, having a schoolmaster in said town."

1701.

*From the Town Records.*

"The inhabitants of the town agreed with Dr. Thomas Little to serve the town as Schoolmaster for the year ensuing and in consideration thereof the town to free him from the poll tax for the said year and also to allow him 20 shillings."

1703.

"The town agreed with Mr. Peregrine White to be their Schoolmaster for the year ensuing and in consideration thereof the town to allow & pay to him, the said Peregrine White the sum of £1—10s (equal to \$5.00) and also that all persons that send their children shall pay to him sixpence a week above & beside the sum aforesaid for each child that comes to be instructed."

1710.

"Ordered the school master to be one month at John Rogers and then the next 3 months to keep School at or near the house of Benj. Phillips, and the residue of the year

being six months at the School house on the South Side of the South River, Arthur Howland teacher. Paid him £13—10s for keeping school one year."

In 1713 paid him £27 a year.

1715.

"Instructed the Selectmen, or one of them to agree with Mr. Perez Bradford to keep school in town a quarter of a year for the present, and the Schools to be kept said quarter at or near Littletown (Sea View)."

"Capt. Isaac Little & John Baker were appointed to agree with Gilbert Winslow for his old house for a school house for the town's use if they think it convenient and if not to agree for the building a new one as soon as may be, to be set on the land of John Jones Jr. at Littletown & to procure a place for the school to be kept in the meanwhile. And also to purchase of the owners thereof the school house by the Meeting house for the town's use."

1717.

"It was ordered that the sum they were rated towards the support of the schoolmaster the present year, for the accommodating them with a *School Dame*, they keep such a school six months in the year and it to be free for any in the town said time."

"It was also agreed that the school house be rebuilt at Littletown & that school be kept for the 'futer' yearly half a year at Littletown and that the inhabitants to Westward of Cove Brook have yearly allowed out of the school rate what they are therein rated provided, and so long as they in that neighborhood do keep a school Dame or some other school half of the year. £40 (equal to \$133.33 1-3) was raised to pay Mr. Bell for his service in keeping schools in the town for One year."

1736.

"It was ordered that the school be kept in the South Side of South River in the School there 4 months and 4 months

at the school house in Littletown and 4 months at the North End of the town near Thos Rogers."

1752.

"Town called a meeting to know whether Ebenezer Damon shall proceed & go on and build a school house near the North meeting house of the dimensions of the old school house at Littletown and it passed in the affirmative."

1765.

"We the subscribers being chosen a Committee to regulate the schools in the town of Marshfield and proportion the £23 of money which was voted by the town over & above what they voted to James Lewis and being now met at the house of Abner Wright in said town and made choice of Abijah White Esq. Moderator, have come into the following resolution viz: 'First that the town school that Mr. Lewis keeps after the present year is up, shall be kept in 4 places in said town viz: that he shall keep the first three months at the house of Mr. Thomas Rogers in said town & that the next 3 months he shall keep it at the old school house in the South house near the church and that he keep the last three months at the school house near Mr. Wales meeting house (north part of town, Unitarian church). And then as to the £23 (equal to \$76.66 2-3) that the North part of said town shall have £3 (equal to \$10) of it, equally divided between the two schools in that part, that the South part of said town shall have £10 of the said sum equally divided between their two schools and as to the other £10 to the middle part of said town two thirds of it at the school house and the other third at the remotest part of that neighborhood if they will provide a place for it to be kept in, but if not then the whole of the amount at the school house, and also that Mr. Saml Oakman and Dea. Tilden shall provide in that part of said town and Esq. White, Capt. Danl White—Mr. Elisha Kent & Mr. Thos Little in their part & Mr. N. R. Thomas Esq. and Nehemiah Thomas in their part of said town."

1777.

"It was ordered that a New school House shall be built near the house of Thomas Rogers—north End of the town. Also that a Grammar school be kept this year in town, and that said school be kept 4 months at the North School house, near the Meeting house & 4 months at the old School house near the South Meeting house, & 2 months at the school house near the church meeting house & two months at the new school house which may be built & proportion the remainder of the Seventy pounds appropriated the schools among the private schools."

1788.

"40 pounds were raised for the use of Schooling the year ensuing, the one half to go to the support of Grammar schools & the other half to be to the support of small schools. A committee was chosen to consist of 12 persons, three for each of the four school houses."

1790.

"Selectmen provided schoolmasters. £60 was appropriated for schools the ensuing year, £48 of this sum was appropriated for grammar schools."

1791.

"This year there was appropriated £36 to be laid out in an English school, also a Committee was chosen to divide the town into 8 districts for the purpose of the English schools, this Committee was also instructed to proportion the above sum £36 on the number of children from the age of four years old to 16 years old in each district and that the said Committee provide some persons to keep said Schools."

1797.

"At a meeting of the School Committee at Mr. Prince Hatche's, after proportioning the \$600 raised for schools for the year, it was agreed that the Committee shall procure good teachers and if they prove not to be such the Commit-

tee to dismiss them & procure more. The Committee were instructed to visit the Schools and invite the ministers to go with them."

1798.

"A new school house was ordered to be built on the west-erly side of the parsonage near where the gate formerly stood."

1799.

"Four hundred Dollars was raised for schooling the present year. A new School house was ordered to be built in the North District."

"In the year 1793 it was ordered that Luke Wadsworth be an agent to make answer in said town's behalf at the next Supreme Judicial Court to be holden at Plymouth to an indictment against said town for not having a grammar school from the first day of June to the first day of Oct. 1791."

1818.

"Two thirds of the money raised for the use of the schools this year was spent in a latin Grammar school and the other third in an English grammar school."

1819.

Seven hundred dollars was raised for schools for the year.

1833.

George Leonard, Wales Clift and Isaac Dingley were chosen school committee.

1838.

"Allowed Danl Phillips' bill for land for School house and pay the special order."

"We the subscribers being chosen a Committee in November last to take into Consideration the making alterations in the North School district, having attended to that business do recommend as follows: That all the inhabitants on the road leading from Nathl Waterman to Danl Hall's and all on the road leading from David Gorham's to Amos

Damon's be annexed to the Cornhill District, including said Hall & Damon & that all to the Southward and Eastward of Bear's brook be annexed to the Littletown district and we further recommend the School house be removed near the dwelling house formerly occupied by the late Jos Ewell deceased.

John Bourne Jr.—Bourne Thomas & Elisha  
Kent Committee."

1839.

"It was decided this year to build a school house in the *Two Mile* district, and that Bourne Thomas—Eleazer Harlow & Ed. P. Little constitute the building Committee, and that said Committee proceed to build said house as soon as possible. \$175 was appropriated towards building said house."

In 1841 \$1050 was raised for the use of the schools.

1847.

"It was ordered that One half of the school money be divided equally on the districts & the other half on the scholars."

"The Selectmen were authorized with Moses F. Rogers to build on or before the first day of next November a new School house in Union District & they are further instructed to expend a sum not exceeding Four hundred Dollars & the proceeds of the sale of the old school house, which old house they are authorized to sell, which sums are for the building of said new school house and for the difference in the exchange of the new site for that of the old site."

1851.

"The Prudential Committee was authorized and instructed to procure their school teachers."

1853.

"The town gave a vote of thanks to Rev. Geo. Leonard for the faithful manner he has served the town for twenty successive years as a member of the school Committee. He was succeeded by Hiram A. Oakman."



1862.

"The Prudential Committee was authorized & instructed to prosecute any and all persons who may injure any of the school houses."

The following were some of the school teachers in town in "Ye Olden Time."

1723.—"It was voted in town meeting that Wm. Rand be desired to keep school for the year ensuing on the same terms as last year."

1725.—Thomas Oliver was teacher at a salary of £50 (equal to \$166.66 2-3) per annum.

From 1727 to 1730 Isaac Lewis was teacher.

In 1733 Adam Richardson served as teacher.

In 1739 Wm. Smith served.

In 1746, 1747 and 1749, James Lewis taught.

The old schoolhouse at Littletown (Sea View) was located half way up the hill, above the old railroad crossing, not far from the Sea View railroad station.

1765.—"The town voted to raise the sum of £60 (equal to \$200) for the support of schools the present year."

This year there were two schools kept in the north part of the town, and two schools kept in the south part of the town.

In 1766, 1767, 1768, 1773 and 1774 James Lewis served as teacher.

In 1776, "voted that Thirty pounds (equal \$100) be appropriated for schools the ensuing year, and be distributed to the six parts of the town, proportionally."

A superintendent of schools was appointed a few years ago by the "Union district," so called, consisting of the school committee of the towns of Duxbury, Scituate and Marshfield. These three towns unite simply and only for the purpose of selecting and appointing a superintendent and regulating his duties in which the three towns as a Union District are concerned. Each of the towns regulate their



schools in their own way, as the town committee may decide. The salary of the superintendent is \$1500, the larger part of which is paid by the State, the town being obliged to raise only \$250 to meet their portion of the expense, a part of which it is claimed the State returns. There has been no consolidation of schools as yet, but the question is being agitated at this time. The High school is now located in the Ventress Memorial Building in South Marshfield. A Grammar school and a Primary school are kept in the schoolhouse at the south part of the town, less than a quarter of a mile westerly of the First Congregational church. A Grammar and a Primary school, at the time of writing, are kept at Marshfield Hills in the schoolhouse which has been occupied by schools for half a century. Six ungraded schools are kept in the following districts: One at Cornhill, in the Union schoolhouse; one at "Two Mile," in the Two Mile house; one at Sea View, one at the Ferry, one in the Winslow district, and one at Brant Rock.

There are eleven schools in all, including four graded schools and the High school. The salaries of the teachers range from eight to eleven dollars per week in all but the High and Grammar schools. The expenses of the schools, including transportation, for the year 1900 were about \$7,000. For the year 1901 they are estimated at about \$5,500, with no transportation.

Our oldest citizens can remember when the schoolhouse at East Marshfield was located at Roger's Corners, on the site where the dwelling of Herbert Rogers now stands, and attended school there. Their fathers attended school a century or more ago at a schoolhouse near the Unitarian church.

## CHAPTER XXXIX.

### *Town Items—Forms of Intentions of Marriage.*

Sept. 10th 1804—"This may certify to whom it may concern that the intention of Marriage between Rev. Elijah Leonard of Marshfield and Miss Mary Delano of Scituate hath been entered within fourteen days and that legal publication thereof hath been made in this town."

"April 3—1805—This may certify to whom it may concern that this intention of marriage between Doctor Charles Macomber of Marshfield & Miss Dorothy Hitchcock of Pembroke hath been entered within fourteen days and that Legal publication thereof hath been made."

1824.

"An agent was chosen to meet the Agents from Scituate & Duxbury Concerning adopting measures for securing vessels & cargoes that are cast on our Sea Shores for the benefit of Proprietors. Francis G. Ford, chosen Agent."

1824.

"Edward P. Little & others presented a petition at town meeting, praying to the Legislature to grant them an act of incorporation for the purpose of erecting a toll bridge across the North River, to get the sense of the meeting, the vote being yeas 23 & nays 17."

1828.

"At a town meeting held this year it was voted not to reconsider or make null & void the vote passed at their last town meeting of the fifth inst. empowering and authorizing an agent to refer or present a petition to the legislature of this Commonwealth praying for an act or law to separate & *divide* the town of Marshfield into two Separate and differ-

ent towns or townships agreeable to a petition of Capt. Jotham Tilden & others" (yeas 84—nays 88).

1829.

"Our representatives were instructed this year to remonstrate in behalf of the town against the petition of Eleazer Harlow & others praying to the Legislature of this Commonwealth to be set off from the town of Marshfield and annexed to the town of Duxbury, fifty for remonstrating and none against."

"Also adopted provisions of an act of the Legislature of this Commonwealth passed the twenty first day of February in the year 1827 entitled an act to preserve and secure from Damage Marshfield Beach & the meadows thereto adjoining which said act was recieved & continued in force by an act of the said Legislature passed the third day of March 1829—141 yeas & 7 nays."

1831.

"Ordered that Neat Cattle may run at large within the limits of their town from the 20th of May next until the first day of November."

1832.

"It was ordered that the fence that now incloses the town's training field near the South Meeting house remain as it now is during the town's pleasure."

"Also the town voted to purchase the house & land of Jeremiah Stevens for a *pauper Establishment* and voted that the Selectmen procure a deed of said house & land for the town and procure the money if wanted on the Town's credit & if not give him the Town Security. A committee was chosen to view the premises purchased for a pauper establishment and for them to see what they think is necessary to be done either in building or repairing or both for the Town & the convenience of the inmates and report at the next March Meeting & Bourne Thomas, Chandler Sampson & Stephen Rogers were chosen a Committee for that purpose."

1836.

"An agent was chosen at the town meeting to meet the County Commissioners at *Daniel Webster's* in Marshfield, respecting the location of a road petitioned for by said Webster & others, & Capt. Bourne Thomas was chosen Agent for that purpose. The Agent was instructed to *oppose* the location of the road petitioned for by Daniel Webster and others."

"The County Commissioners, however, authorized the building of the road, which ran from near the Winslow mansion house to the Marshfield & Duxbury line."

1838.

"A committee chosen were authorized to build a Town House, & to hire money on the town's credit to pay the remainder of the expense of said house."

"It was also ordered that the Town House be opened for all meetings, except of an immoral tendency, and the care of the said house shall be with the Superintendent of the Alm's house, whoever he may be."

1840.

"Elijah Ames was chosen Treasurer, & voted him \$20 for his services. He also was chosen Collector of Taxes; & all who pay the whole amount of all their taxes on or before the first of January, 1841, shall have five per cent. discounted out of their taxes; & all who do not pay by that time shall pay the whole amount."

"This may certify to all whom it may concern, that the intention of marriage between David P. Hatch and Miss Mary D. Ames, both of Marshfield, hath been entered with me (town clerk) fourteen days, & published in the town of Marshfield, as the law directs—July 14, 1839.

"This may certify that an intention of marriage between Mr. Henry Tilden and Miss Hannah Hatch of Marshfield has been entered 14 days & published in the town of Marshfield, as the law directs—Nov. 23—1840."

"This may certify to whom it may concern, that an intention of marriage between Mr. Warren Hall & Miss Meriam Baker, both of Marshfield, has been entered with me 14 days, & published in the town of Marshfield, as the law directs—Jan. 18—1841."

1847.

"The town raised this year one thousand dollars for the repair of Highways. One-fourth to be expended in the summer, and the remaining three-fourths to be reserved for the winter."

## CHAPTER XL.

### *Fugitive Slave Law.*

1851.

"In town meeting held March 3rd, 1851, it was voted to consider at this time the 14th article in the warrant, which Article relates to the Fugitive Slave Act, whereupon N. H. Whiting presented and read the following Preamble & Resolutions:"

"Whereas, the government of the United States is professedly based upon the great truth that all men are free and equal, and have an inalienable right to liberty, and whereas its Constitution was ordained for the purpose of establishing Justice, ensuring domestic tranquility providing for the common defence, promoting the general welfare, and whereas the late Fugitive Slave Act, is not in accordance with this purpose, but is contrary to some of the express provisions of that instrument, among others, that which declares that no man shall be deprived of life or liberty without due process of law, and that men charged with crime or whose interests are at stake in suits at common law involving a sum equal to twenty dollars, shall be entitled to a trial by Jury; and whereas this act is equally repugnant to our moral sense, a disgrace to the civilization of the age, and clearly at variance with the whole spirit of the Christian faith, therefore

Resolved, that until we are prepared to repudiate the principles of Independence, & abjure all our ideas of Justice and humanity, of truth & duty, we can be under no voluntary obedience to this act.

Resolved, that while we love & defend the Union that secures the object for which this was said to be established, we are not to be deterred by any threats of disunion, or by any

fear of evils, immediate or remote, present or future, from using all just and lawful means to aid & assist those who have the manliness & courage to escape from their prison house of bondage.

Resolved, that while we desire liberty for ourselves; while we retain one spark of that spirit which led the Pilgrims across the Ocean; while we have the least conception of those sublime precepts of the gospel which commands us to love our neighbors, to do unto others as we would have them do unto us; to feed the hungry, clothe the naked & relieve the suffering of the poor & the outcasts; while we recognize the obligations of charity & love & good will, our houses shall be open to welcome the hunted Fugitive as he passes our doors in his flight from the national bloodhounds, who are baying on his tract.

Resolved, that we commend to every Fugitive from Slavery the glorious sentiment of Patrick Henry, 'Give me Liberty, or give me death.' Seizing upon this idea, let him use all the means which God will justify to protect his freedom; and if he shall perish in the struggle for his birth right, as his last sigh mingles with the common air, and goes out over the world, and up to heaven, a swift witness against the nation which so foully murders him, let him breathe it to the wind that murmurs by him, and bequeath as an inspiring influence to the panting fugitive he leaves behind him. 'Give me liberty or give me death.' Adopted, yeas, 120—Nays, 34."

1851.

*Temperance.*

"In town meeting it was ordered that Moses F. Rogers, Geo. Leonard & Lincoln Damon be a committee to act in concert with committees of the towns of Duxbury and Pembroke to make use of moral suasion, or other justifiable means to prevent the traffic in Ardent spirits at any place near the borders of these towns where it is believed the traffic exists."



## CHAPTER XLI.

1852.

*Daniel Webster's Death.*

*Town Resolutions.*

At a town meeting, the Selectmen presiding, it was voted "that the clerk of the town be instructed to enter on the Record of this town, certain Resolutions passed at an adjourned meeting of citizens of the town held on Thursday, October 28, A. D., 1852, and also a letter from Millard Fillmore, Acting President of the United States."

At an adjourned meeting of the citizens of Marshfield, held without distinction of party, at their town house on Thursday, October 28th, the following resolutions were unanimously passed:

"Whereas it has pleased an allwise Providence to remove from the scenes of Earth the Hon. Daniel Webster, Secretary of State, of the United States: therefore

Resolved, that the citizens of Marshfield join in the Universal, deep toned lamentations that is pouring forth from every part of our land, and that will soon be heard coming over the waters from other lands, in consequence of the decease of our illustrious citizen.

Resolved, that the cause of free political institutions throughout the world has lost a devoted friend and unrivalled advocate.

Resolved, that the people of this town mourn, in an especial manner, the departure of him who, when he could be spared from his arduous public duties, has so long made his home among them.

Resolved, that the name of Daniel Webster has caused to be associated with the name of our otherwise unpretending town, an immortal fame; and that we believe no spot on the

American Continent—next to the ‘shades of Vernon’—will be visited by the present and future generations, with more respect and veneration, than the tomb of Webster at Marshfield.

Resolved, that we have long revered his name, and been proud of the exalted station he attained; and now that he has gone to receive the reward—as we all believe—of a most useful and honored life, while we shall ever carry with us a remembrance of his exalted patriotism and lofty statesmanship, we shall also, as citizens of the same town with him, cherish with peculiar affection the recollection of his many acts of neighborly kindness, sympathy & generosity.

Resolved, that a delegation of fifty citizens be appointed on behalf of the town to meet at the place known as the ‘Winslow House’ to receive the Governor and his Council on their approach to the late residence of the deceased, and to proceed thence to attend the funeral.

Resolved, that the bells in this town be tolled from eleven o’clock till twelve on the day of the funeral, and that they be again tolled one hour at sunset.

Resolved, that we offer to the family of the illustrious deceased our deep and heartfelt sympathy for their bereavement, though we feel that no language is adequate to express fully our sense of its magnitude.

Daniel Phillips,  
*Chairman.”*

*From President Fillmore.*

“Daniel Phillips, Esq.,  
Marshfield, Mass.

Sir—I received this morning, through the mail, a copy of the Resolutions adopted on the 28th ult., at a meeting of the citizens of the town of Marshfield in honor of the late Daniel Webster, and I can assure you that they express no sentiment that does not receive my most cordial appropria-

tion. I regret extremely that my public engagements were so pressing that I was unable to testify my respect for the deceased by attending his funeral in person. This would have been a melancholy satisfaction. I am, however, gratified to know that his friends and neighbors duly appreciated his merits, and honored themselves in honoring him. His decease has left a void in the political and social circle, which will not soon be filled, and it will be long before we shall look upon another giant intellect like his.

He has rendered his country great services, and I am happy to see by the tone of the public press, that now, at least, his merits are duly appreciated. I have the honor to be

(Signed) Truly yours,  
Millard Fillmore."

## CHAPTER XLII.

1861.

### *The Civil War.*

"May 1—\$5,000 was voted at the town meeting for the defense of our rights, also a bounty of ten dollars to be paid to all persons who have or may enlist as soldiers whenever they shall be accepted and mustered into service, also voted to increase the monthly pay of each soldier to \$25, who has been accepted and mustered into service, extending to those who may be drafted alike, with those who have or may enlist. Ordered that five dollars per month be added to those soldiers who have families. The patriotic services of the ladies, who have volunteered to make clothing, &c., for the soldiers, were accepted."

"July 6—One dollar per week was ordered to be paid by the town to the wife, & also one dollar per week to the children under 16 years of age of any citizen of this town, who has or may become a member of the volunteer militia of this state, and said pay shall commence when mustered into service of the United States, and shall continue until otherwise directed by a vote of this town at a meeting called for that purpose, but the amount shall not exceed 12 dollars per month to any one family; and also one dollar per week shall be paid to each parent, brother or sister of the volunteer, who at the time of his enlistment was dependent on him for support, and the Selectmen shall have the power to decide on any doubtful cases. Also voted that those articles of clothing in the hands of the Selectmen be distributed by them to the volunteer soldiers, and if there should not be sufficient on hand for all of the soldiers, the Selectmen are hereby directed to procure them when called for."

1861.

"Nov. 5—John A. Andrew's vote in Marshfield for Governor was 196, to Isaac Davis of Worcester, 17."

*Resolutions on the War.*

1862—July 22.

At a town meeting Nathaniel H. Whiting presented the following Resolutions, which were adopted :

"Resolved, that in the dark & troubled night which surrounds us, we cherish with a deeper love and more exalted patriotism, the noble sentiment proclaimed in that early conflict with the spirit of Disunion, on the floor of the American Senate by our great statesman, now sleeping in our midst by the sounding sea he loved so well, 'Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.'

Resolved, that in defense of these, we will stand by the Government to the extent of our last dollar and our last man, preferring to leave for those who shall come after us, a wilderness like that our Fathers found when they sailed into yonder bay and landed on Plymouth rock, rather than this monstrous rebellion shall prevail.

Resolved, that a committee be appointed, consisting of one from each school district, to aid in securing the quota of troops appointed to this town under the last call of the President, and that for this object they be empowered to offer a bounty of one hundred dollars for each man who shall volunteer and be accepted by the military authorities."

1862.

"The town agreed to pay a bounty of one hundred dollars to all soldiers who may enlist in response to the call of the President for the second three hundred thousand men, whenever they shall be accepted and mustered into the service of the United States."

"Chas. P. Wright—Geo. M. Baker—Daniel Stevens—Luther Hatch—Chas. W. Macomber—Henry S. Bates—Nathaniel Church—Amos Sherman & Henry Leonard were

chosen a committee to obtain a war-fund by individual subscription to be also paid to those who may enlist, as above, and also to use all other means in their power to promote enlistments, as contemplated in the former vote passed at this meeting."

1862.

"Sept. 8—It was ordered that we pay each soldier who has or may enlist under the last call of the President for soldiers to serve for nine months, the sum of fifty dollars in addition to the sum of one hundred dollars before voted."

"Dec. 16—The bounty offered for volunteers in the nine months' service was annulled. Also the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars to be paid to each of those who will enlist as soldiers in the three years' service to fill the quota, the supposed number being twelve."

"All town officers who receive their pay from the town by the day, shall receive for their services the ensuing year, \$1.25 pr. day, & no more; and the Treasurer to receive twenty-five dollars as his annual salary."

1863.

"The Selectmen were directed to loan one hundred and fifty dollars to each and every man who has or may be drafted under the present call of the President of the United States, whenever he shall be accepted, or whenever he has procured a substitute who has been accepted, and they shall take a note from each therefore bearing interest at the rate of one mill on a dollar per annum."

1864.

"Agreed to pay to each and all persons who shall volunteer as a soldier a sum not exceeding one hundred and twenty-five dollars, whenever enlisted and mustered into the service of the United States."

*Soldiers Return.*

1865—July 25.

The following report of the Selectmen was adopted :

"The undersigned, a committee chosen at a meeting of the inhabitants of the town of Marshfield at the Town house on Monday 24th, inst., to ascertain the best method of expressing our gratitude to our returned soldiers, respectfully submit the following report:

We believe that for the services of the soldier has rendered his country and the world, no adequate equivalent can ever be rendered, and inasmuch as it is a custom generally prevalent in towns for the people to assemble together and manifest their joy at his safe return, and their gratitude for his service by speech and song and festivities, &c.

Therefore, we recommend that a meeting be held in the grove, near the Town House on Thursday, the 10th of August next, at such hour as may be hereafter designated."

1866.

May 31—The town met to hear the report of the committee chosen at the last meeting. Report:

"Your committee chosen and instructed to confer with the volunteers of the year, 1861, in regard to a settlement of their claims, have complied with those instructions, and submit the following report:

"The result of our conference with the volunteers was, to obtain the following agreement, which we are willing to enter into with the town.

"We, who have served as volunteers in the recent war, and enlisted in 1861 with the understanding that the town should make our pay equal to \$25 and \$30, pr month, agreeably to a vote of the town passed May 1, 1861, hereby agree to relinquish all claims under said vote, and to give a receipt in full, in writing, for all claims for monthly pay under that vote, when the town shall pay to us the sum of two hundred dollars each, for those who served their full term, or who re-enlisted, and a proportional sum for those who served a less period, and provided the widows and children of our comrades, who have fallen or died in the service, shall re-



ceive a like sum. Signed—Henry Tolman—Henry B. Bonney—Caleb E. Bailey—Jesse L. Lewis—Josiah C. Crowell—James C. Phillips—Daniel Stetson—Abijah Ewell—Martha Sherman—Hannah Ewell—Thatcher Ewell—Hannah E. Sampson—Harriet T. Ewell—Geo. E. Crossly—Charles Stevens—Ethan A. Randall—Anson Hatch—Nathan F. Hopkins—18.

“And your committee would recommend the acceptance of those conditions on the part of the town, and that the claims of all volunteers of 1861 be settled on these principles, who enlisted previous to the act of the Legislature passed at special session of 1861—limiting the action of the town to three months, provided it can be legally done. Signed—R. H. Moorehead—Seth Weston—Daniel Stevens—Stephen Gardner—H. A. Oakman.”

The names of soldiers who took part in the Civil War of 1861 to 1865 from Marshfield, are as follows:

“Alfred W. Stoddard—Geo. Baker—C. Wm. Estes—Nathaniel J. Porter—Wm. Rogers—James L. Rogers—James E. Baker—Henry S. Bates—Edwin Curtis—Peleg S. Sherman—Ed. H. Davis—Wm. Williamson—Chas. W. Bailey—E. F. Cudworth—Israel H. Carver—Daniel E. Ewell—Ed. A. Falvey—Thos. P. Ford—S. Nelson Gardner—Lorenzo D. Harrington—Samuel Holmes—Ed. Hatch—Samuel F. Hatch—Chas. R. Hatch—Calvin O. Hatch—John F. Hatch—Asa W. Hewit—John A. Keen—Wm. Byran Little—Geo. T. Osborn—Wm. S. Porter—Josiah Randall—Jos. Sherman—Jona. J. Simmons—Josiah Thomas—Lucius Thomas—James A. Wright—Calvin Williamson, Jr.—Peter Williamson—And. J. Williamson—Geo. W. Eames—Henry F. Ford—Henry W. Holmes—Geo. S. Lapham—John Williamson—Anthony W. Williamson—Samuel C. Baker—Lucius L. Bonney—Fred A. Delano—John G. Fish—Calvin Joyce—Nicholas Porter, Jr.—Calvin

Porter, Jr.—Geo. W. Sears—Moses Sherman—Eben S. Thomas—Georgiana White—Warren F. White—Wm. H. Tolman—James C. Phillips—Geo. Atwell—Israel H. Hatch—Jona. J. Simmons—David T. Phillips—Augusta Hatch—Col. Hiram A. Oakman—Henry Tolman—Ethan A. Randall—Josiah C. Crowell—Job L. Ewell—Ezra W. Hatch—Nathan F. Hopkins—Allen Wright—Caleb E. Bailey—Geo. E. Crossley—Edmund Crossley—David Church—Chas. H. Corbett—Thatcher Ewell—Samuel H. Ewell—John M. Ford—Josiah Joyce—Jesse L. Lewis—Francis P. Lewis—Nathan Sherman, Jr.—Japhet S. Sampson—Chas. Stevens—Wm. H. Tolman—Seth Williamson—James C. Phillips—Benj. H. Manning—Ed. R. Merry—Anson Hatch—Abijah Ewell—Gilman Mitchell—Wm. W. Randall—Daniel Stetson—Fletcher Webster, Col— (son of Daniel Webster)—Chas. Tolman—Silas W. Carver—Lucius E. Chandler—Francis A. Corlew—Geo. Atwell—Leroy S. Bonney—Justin A. Carver—Judson Ewell—Henry P. Oakman—Samuel J. Ross—Edwin Atwell—Robert Ames—Wm. J. Baker—Levi W. Bailey—Edward F. Damon—Turner Ewell, Jr.—James W. Fish—Seth O. Fitts—James Green—Albert Holmes—Albion Hatch—Andrew W. Hatch—Chas. P. Hatch—Wilbur F. Harrington—Chas. A. Nichols—Chas. W. Osborn—Chas. F. Perry—David T. Phillips—Freeman A. Ramsdell—Martin Ramsdell, Jr.—Josiah C. Stoddard—Jos. W. Clift—Franklin J. Manning—T. Correggio Brown—Nelson Ewell—Frederick H. Ewell—J. Alonzo Ewell—Lyman Fitts—Jos. E. Williamson—Andrew L. Damon—Church C. Lapham—Hiram Butterfield, Jr.—Ethan A. Randall—Allen Wright—Geo. E. Crossley—Francis A. Corlew—Josiah Thomas—Edwin Curtis—Ed. H. Davis.”

The following are soldiers who died in the service, and some, who were wounded, some of whom are now living in 1901:

“Robert Ames—Lewis W. Bailey—Lucius L. Bonney—Hiram Butterfield, Jr.—Justin A. Carver, wounded in throat or lungs, now living, the bullet has never been extracted—David Church—killed, and for whom the Grand Army Post in Marshfield is named—Chas. W. Cobbett—Edmund Crossley, wounded and died within 28 days—Edwin Curtis, wounded and died within 6 days—Job L. Ewell, wounded and died within 30 days—Samuel H. Ewell—Turner Ewell, Jr.—James W. Fish—S. Nelson Gardner, who died at the war—Wilbur F. Harrington—Andrew W. Hatch—Joseph Joyce—Col. Hiram A. Oakman, wounded, now living—Freeman A. Randall, wounded—Josiah C. Stoddard—Josiah Thomas—Col. Fletcher Webster—killed in battle—Joseph E. Williamson—James A. Wright—Church C. Lapham, a drummer boy, wounded in leg, now living.”

## CHAPTER XLIII.

1867—July 8.

### *Town Record Selection.*

"Ordered by the town that the town Treasurer be and is hereby authorized and instructed in the name of the town to subscribe for and take seven hundred and fifty shares (at \$100 pr. share) of the capital stock of the Duxbury and Cohasset Railroad, agreeable to the provisions of said Charter. Provided the sum of two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars be subscribed for and taken by the towns of Scituate and Duxbury, or other corporations. The result of the voting was yeas, 176—Nays, 37."

1870.

Wales R. Clift presented at the town meeting the following resolutions:

"Believing that taxation without representation is as offensive to the people of the town in 1870 as it was in its colonial days of 1770. Therefore, Resolved: That in the great taxation which we have imposed upon ourselves by subscribing for stock in the Cohasset and Duxbury Railroad, we feel that we are not fairly and impartially represented by our Director, Nathaniel H. Whiting, who ignores the wishes of the town in its location for their mutual accommodation as far as practicable, and regards the desire of a mammoth corporation which takes the oyster of the shore route for its own aggrandizement, and leaves a large portion of citizens of the town with nothing to hope for or expect but the shell and a burdensome taxation for themselves and their children after them, therefore we request him to resign, that we may have a Director who is willing to carry out

the wishes of the town. Yea and nay vote was called on the above Resolution, and was decided in the negative by a vote of yeas, 155—nays, 187.”

The citizens at the ‘Two Mile’ and ‘Cornhill’ at North Marshfield, living nearly three miles from the railroad station at Marshfield Hills (the nearest station) felt that it was unjust to make them pay the increased taxes that would arise from the railroad debt by locating the railroad at the outer limits of the town, bordering the marshes along the shore, when by locating the road in the center of the town it would give all equal accommodations, and just and equal taxation and representation.

But the railroad authorities argued that a shore route would meet in the end with a larger patronage, and hence be more desirable for the corporation; and thus the establishment of this route was consummated.

1871.

“The sale of Porter, Strong beer and Lager beer was prohibited by the town, and no persons were allowed to sell the same within the town of Marshfield for the year ensuing. Yeas, 44—Nays, 6.”

## CHAPTER XLIV.

### *Marshfield Agricultural and Horticultural Society.*

One of the best and most useful institutions to the farmers of Marshfield and vicinity is, and has been, the Marshfield Agricultural & Horticultural Society.

It was organized in 1867, and incorporated in 1868. It was a successful movement from the start; not only did the farmers of the town become interested, but everybody, whether engaged in Agriculture, Horticulture or not, were interested in the society, and the interest was not limited to the confines of the town, but Duxbury, Scituate, Pembroke and some other near by towns in the county became part and parcel of the society and worked for its advancement. Its officers were scattered through neighboring towns. The annual fairs held by the society in September, and sometimes in August, have been a great attraction to the people.

It has brought together in a sort of "home week" the natives whose homes are removed some distance from their native soil in Boston, Quincy, Weymouth, Braintree and more distant places, and here on the fair grounds once a year they meet their former schoolmates; and not only the people out of town, but the residents of the town come together, not having met since the last fair, a year before, and they chat, laugh and enjoy a good social time. It is a gala day for the country around. This, however, is only a part of the attractions. Fruit and vegetables are brought in abundance. The tables in the hall and basement are filled with them, affording a beautiful display, and giving the visitor an opportunity (if a farmer) of comparing his own products with those on exhibition. Then the exhibition of cattle, horses, swine, sheep and poultry attract the eye of all

visitors, whether farmers or not, and again a part of the hall is given up to specimens of female industry, art, needle-work, bread, butter, cheese, preserves and a floral exhibit. The horse trot, as in all other Agricultural fairs, is a prominent feature of this exhibition, and in the minds of many, perhaps, too prominent in an Agricultural and Horticultural Exhibition for profit. A fine band of music adds interest to the fair. The exhibition of oxen used to be a prominent feature. We have seen a quarter of a century ago a line of a hundred yoke of oxen marching around the track and headed by a brass band; and to-day not a single yoke is seen anywhere on the fair grounds. Horses have taken their place, being swifter of foot and doing as much work. Another feature of the fair is the ploughing match. Formerly oxen and horses competed, but now horses only, and at the last fair even this was omitted. Testing the drawing capacity of a pair of farm horses by pulling a farm wagon loaded with rocks, over blocks of wood, is a feature of the fair that attracts some attention. The fair is generally held three days. The first day is called the preparation day.

The society for the last year or two have introduced outdoor athletic sports, and humorous performances on the stage.

The first officers of the society were Geo. M. Baker, President (whose popularity kept him in office continuously nearly, if not quite twenty years); Levi Walker, Vice President; John Baker, Secretary; Warren Kent, Auditor, and Luther Thomas, Constant Oakman, Frank P. Arnold, Stephen Henry, Chas. T. Hatch, Chas. P. Wright, Jos. O. Cole, Jona. S. Ford, Bailey Chandler, James S. Bates and Hiram Randall, directors. The following have served as Presidents since its organization: Geo. M. Baker, Wm. J. Wright of Duxbury; John Parks of Plymouth; Ex. Gov. Geo. W. Emery, Walton Hall, Col. Hiram A. Oakman, who



is now serving in 1901. The members of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, who have represented this Society, are as follows: Geo. M. Baker of Marshfield, who served many years as its first representative, then Hon. Daniel E. Damon, of Plymouth; George J. Peterson, Lysander S. Richards, John H. Bourne, Walton Hall, of Marshfield; and the present occupant in 1901, is Henry B. Turner, of Norwell; term three years.

The debt of the society at present, 1901, is about \$3,200. It was considerably larger, but the bequest of the late Hon. Nathaniel H. Whiting, amounting to about \$1,800, reduced it to the present moderate sum. This debt is secured by notes signed by several of the directors and friends of the society. The society has been unfortunate in having its hall partly wrecked twice by severe gales. In its early history the hall blew over while in the process of erection, and it was again partly wrecked in the great gale of 1898. In both instances the building was rebuilt through the efforts of zealous friends of the society, who raised enough money for the purpose. A new grand stand was built a few years ago, during the administration of Ex. Gov. Emery, then President of the society, at an expense of about \$3,000, half of which was raised by popular subscription. A half mile race track for horse trots was built nearly quarter of a century ago.

The following are the officers in 1901: Col. Hiram A. Oakman, President; Walton Hall and Capt. Albert T. Sprague, Vice Presidents; Herman Kent, Treasurer; Israel H. Hatch, Secretary; Lysander S. Richards, Auditor; and a board of eleven Directors as follows: H. A. Baker of Rockland; T. B. Blackman, Chas. F. Church, Walter E. Damon, Winthrop T. Hall, Barker Sprague, Lucius Thomas of Marshfield; Walter T. Osborne, James W. Sampson of Norwell; Otis Standish of Pembroke, and Frederick Cole of Scituate. Member of the Board of Agriculture, Henry A. Turner of Norwell.

For many years, nearly a quarter of a century, Dr. Francis Collamore, of North Pembroke, served faithfully and well as its Treasurer and Secretary, and only resigned a year ago on account of ill health. There are about 850 members of the society. Life membership, \$5.00.

## CHAPTER XLV.

### *Clift Rodgers Free Library.*

The founder of the Clift Rodgers Free Library and Hall was Mr. Clift Rodgers, a native of Marshfield Hills, formerly East Marshfield. Mr. Rodgers was born in Marshfield, Dec. 4, 1806. At the age of 19 he went to Quincy Mass., where he learned the currier's trade, and after carrying on the business some twenty-five years, he moved to Boston and engaged in the hide and leather business, where he amassed a moderate fortune.

Retiring about 1867, he returned to Marshfield and spent the remainder of his days here on his native hills in the enjoyment of a well spent life.

He died in 1897, in his ninety-first year. His loving wife preceded him in his journey beyond by four years.

About two months before his decease he directed the author of this History to get incorporated and organize an association for the building of a Free Library and Hall, and after its incorporation and organization he placed in the hands of the Treasurer the sum of \$5000 for the purchase of a site in Marshfield Hills and the erection of a building thereon. It was organized and incorporated as the Clift Rodgers Free Library Association, with the following persons as its corporators and officers: President, Lysander S. Richards; secretary, George H. Weatherbee; treasurer, Mrs. Miriam G. Richards; directors, Marcellus W. Rogers, James L. Rogers, Miss Henrietta Hall, Wendell Phillips, and Horace T. Fogg.

Since its organization Miss Miriam G. Richards, its first treasurer, and Wendell Phillips, a director, have passed away, and Miss Eleanor R. Richards was chosen to fill the vacant office of treasurer. Mr. Rodgers did not live to see the erection of the building he donated. The site he se-

lected and purchased just before his decease, where the building now stands. It is nearly opposite the Orthodox, or Second Trinitarian Congregational church, and near the so-called "Rodgers Corners," Marshfield Hills. It was built by William L. Sprague in a thorough, workmanlike manner. H. W. Rogers of Lynn was the architect.

It is a one story building, with a library or stack room and reading room on the southwesterly end. The hall and stage are on the northeasterly end. The nucleus of the library was furnished by the East Marshfield Public Library (a small library located years before in the East Grammar schoolhouse). The library now contains about 1000 volumes and is well patronized. It is opened once a week, afternoon and evening. Mr. Edgar Hood has served as librarian since the building was completed.

The conditions of the gift are that the hall should be always free to Spiritualist speakers, provided they pay for lighting, heating, and the janitor's fee. Mr. Rodgers, the donor, was a Spiritualist, but since the hall was built there has been no demand from that source. The hall is let more or less for small assemblies, lectures and entertainments. Its seating capacity is about 200.

The expense of running the library, including the salary of the librarian, is mostly paid from the interest of the fund remaining, amounting to about \$1250. It is not a town institution, only in the sense that its citizens are allowed to take out books from the library free. It is a perpetual corporation, founded at the wish of Mr. Rodgers. It is placed in the hands of seven trustees, who have power to fill vacancies whenever they may occur. The demand at present for books is mostly for fiction, although it is the purpose of the government to furnish nothing but good books. It is hoped as the years roll by that a higher taste for reading will be cultivated by our citizens. There are plenty of high class books in the library worth reading. Books will be added from time to time as the funds in the treasury permit.

## CHAPTER XLVI.

### *Formation of Grand Army Post and Ladies' Relief Corps.*

Some twelve years ago Mr. James L. Rogers, with the assistance of John H. Eames (both soldiers in the Civil war of 1861), conceived the idea of starting a Grand Army Post in this town, and Mr. Rogers stating his purpose to the author, the latter made it public in his regular correspondence in the *Marshfield Mail*. Mr. Wales Rogers, father of James, was the proprietor of the only hall at the Hills at that time, known as Rogers' Hall, and through the influence of his son, he granted the use of his hall free for one year, for the purpose of establishing a Post. Mr. James Rogers then, with the assistance of Mr. Eames, began the work of enlisting the sympathy and interest of the war veterans in the movement, and at the first two or three meetings they could not get but two or three interested.

The Post, however, in due time and process of form was organized and called the "David Church Post," named after the first soldier from Marshfield killed in the war. Mr. Rogers did janitor work in taking care of the hall gratuitously. After a year and a few months' occupation of the hall, the Post moved to a small hall fitted up for the purpose over the store of the late Elisha W. Hall. Here they remained until the purchase of the old Rogers Hall and a small piece of land surrounding it. This building was repaired and extended in length, the mid-floor removed, and a large stage added. A beautiful building, both interior and exterior, was thus added to the town's attractions. The building has cost the Post over \$3000.

Soon after the organization of the Post, the Woman's Relief Corps was started and organized in due form as an

auxiliary or aid to the Grand Army Post, and the assistance rendered the Post through the untiring efforts of these women has been an untold benefit. Their labors have been given mostly in the direction of paying off a part of the debt on the building. A mortgage was obtained upon the property of \$2000 when the building was completed, and through the efforts of the Post, in successfully putting plays upon the stage, and the assistance of the ladies of the W. R. C. in the holding of fairs and entertainments, the debt has been reduced to about \$800.

Memorial Day is observed by the Post and the Woman's Relief Corps every year in decorating the deceased soldiers' graves in the cemeteries of the town, and exercises are held in the Grand Army Hall.

A soldiers' monument in memory of the soldiers who were killed and died from wounds and diseases resulting from the effects of the Civil war, was erected by the town at Marshfield Hills, near the site of the Unitarian meeting-house and in front of the cemetery adjoining. It was erected some ten years ago. It is constructed of Quincy granite, with the life-size figure of a soldier on top of the pedestal, and a gun at rest in the grip of the soldier's hand. Its cost was about \$1500. The committee in procuring the monument and selecting the site were Col. Hiram A. Oakman, John H. Eames and Henry Tolman. Some time after its erection, its dedication took place. The celebration of this event was attended by people not only of this town, but from all the adjoining towns. The orator of the day was our Secretary of the Commonwealth, Hon. William Olin. The commander of the Post at this time was Josiah Crowell, who was the president of the day. Col. H. A. Oakman had charge of the procession.

The commanders of the Post who have served since its organization are: John H. Eames, who served several years, Josiah Crowell, Judson Ewell, Col. H. A. Oakman, Israel

Carver, and Elbridge Baker, who is its present commander. Some years ago the Sons of Veterans were formed, and they have been a flourishing organization. They hold their meetings in the old Agricultural Hall, at Marshfield.



## CHAPTER XLVII.

### *Stores.*

In the early part of the 19th century, Proctor Bourne kept store at Marshfield on the spot where the postoffice is now located, after which the store was kept by George Martin Baker. Following him, his son George carried on the business, after whom the father took the store again, and now it is continued by Mr. Augustus Barstow, agent. The postoffice is now located here, and Mr. Barstow holds the office of postmaster. Another store about the middle of the 19th century was built by Henry Crossley about half a mile from said store, just above the old mill and South river bridge. It was kept by him for some years. He was followed by Luther P. and Charles Hatch, and soon L. P. Hatch bought the interest of Charles Hatch and carried on the store alone.

Some few years later L. P. Hatch built the large store now occupied by the so-called "Marshfield Store." The Crossley store was burned a few years after Mr. Hatch moved into his new store. Here he continued in the business for many years.

Another small store close by was kept by Charles Harlow some years ago.

At Sea View a store was built in the middle of the last century and carried on by George H. Weatherbee, Jr., in a part of the building now known as Pecker's shoe shop. The building used in after years as a shoe factory by George Pecker is now abandoned. Mr. William Smith kept store a short while here. Opposite this building, across the street, a smaller store was erected, and here George Currell carried on the grocery business. He was followed later by William Randall. It is now kept by Chester Ewell.

At North Marshfield, in the village known as Cornhill, Miss Mary Conant somewhere in the seventies kept store in a building adjoining George Conant's residence, opposite the road leading to Gravelly Beach. The store is now closed, and there is no store in that portion of the town.

At East Marshfield (now Marshfield Hills), in the early part of the 19th century, Danforth Hall carried on the store business in a building on the grounds now owned by Albert Holmes. Later he built the store and residence now occupied by George H. Weatherbee, town treasurer. After a few years he sold out to Henry Clapp. Mr. Hall was grandfather of the late Elisha W. Hall, one of the most successful merchants the town has ever known. Mr. Clapp was succeeded by George H. Weatherbee, Sr., father of the present town clerk and treasurer. W. & C. Ames followed Mr. Weatherbee.

Directly opposite this store Elisha W. Hall and George H. Weatherbee, Jr., erected a large, two story building in which they carried on the grocery and dry goods business. After a few years Mr. Hall bought Mr. Weatherbee's interest and conducted the business alone for many years. Mr. Weatherbee then occupied the old store adjoining his house, but after a few years he gave up the business, and as treasurer and town clerk his office is here located. Mr. E. W. Hall was succeeded by his son, Winthrop, who is at present conducting the business.

In the middle of the 19th century the late Henry Tilden kept store at the "Two Mile," in a building now used as a residence and formerly occupied by Mr. Albion Hatch, on the corner of a road leading to Samuel F. Hatch's sawmill. Later he built and occupied the store at Marshfield Hills now rented by G. F. Drew as a grocer. After Mr. Henry Tilden, Capt. Charles F. Tilden conducted the business for many years. It is now carried on by his grandson, the said G. F. Drew. Henry Tilden built a store adjoining

his late residence, and after carrying on the business a few years, retired.

Henry Carver (formerly a clerk in Capt. Tilden's store) bought, a few years ago, the late residence of Dr. Hagar, and built a store on the easterly end of his house, and is at present conducting a prosperous business there.

#### *Tea Rock.*

We do not have in Marshfield an historic rock, like Plymouth Rock, a relic of the Pilgrims, but we have a rock that is a relic of the Revolution. When the Boston Tea Party threw overboard in the Boston Harbor all the tea on the ships in the harbor, the patriots of Marshfield learned there was a large quantity of tea secreted by some authorities in the cellar of a house on the site now occupied by Mr. Seaverns, two or three hundred feet from the street leading from the First Congregational church to the Marshfield station. The Marshfield patriots, not to be outdone by the Boston tea sinkers, marched to the said house and demanded the tea. Resistance being useless, it was given up and carried to a rock on a hill directly opposite Dr. Stephen Henry's residence, not far from the First Congregational church, and there heaped upon this huge rock, it was set afire and burned to ashes. This rock (what there is remaining of it) has since been called "Tea Rock."

## CHAPTER XLVIII.

### *Green Harbor Dike.*

Not only will this description of the Dike give some idea of its purpose and development, but it will also make future generations better acquainted with the present conditions and extent of the salt marshes in the region of Green Harbor river. Nothing has occurred in any town in Plymouth County for the past century that has probably created more contention, opposition, and bad feeling, than the building and continuation of the dike across Green Harbor river in Marshfield. Year after year it has been a bone of contention in our town meetings. It has entered our politics, and the question was obliged to be solved whether a man up for office was a Diker, or an Anti-Diker. The feeling became so intense against the dike that about a decade ago the dike was blown up and severely damaged. It finally became necessary to keep a watchman there night and day to guard it, lest it be blown up again.

The reason of such intense opposition was that the fishermen in the vicinity of Green Harbor river claimed that the diking of the river nearly ruined the fishery business, as the lack of a sufficiently strong current to carry off the sand accumulating there year after year resulted in the filling up of the river. Most of the residents at Green Harbor and Brant Rock are Anti-Dikers. Some others, who owned a portion of the salt marsh affected by the diking of the river, claimed that they preferred their salt meadows without a dike, desiring the crop of salt hay therefrom, rather than bearing their portion of the expense in the construction of the dike.

The Dikers claimed it was for the public good, that the

meadows diked would produce good, fresh hay, garden and fruit crops in abundance without a particle of manure of any description. What it has done will be mentioned further on.

After several ineffectual attempts to get the Massachusetts Legislature to open the dike, this body in 1896 appointed a joint commission, consisting of the Board of Harbor and Land Commissioners and the State Board of Health, for the purpose of considering the proposition of the Anti-Dikers of opening the dike and restoring Green Harbor to its former condition. After a thorough investigation they reported that it was inexpedient to open or remove the dike, but recommended the building of jetties at the mouth of Green Harbor to direct the current and prevent the waves from driving the sand and shingle into the channel, and this has been done, at an estimated expense of \$66,880, by the state.

To give a cursory explanation of this great enterprise, I feel I cannot do better than make such selections from the report of the said joint commissioners as will in my judgment most interest the readers of this history. "The small village of Green Harbor is situated in the southeasterly portion of the town of Marshfield, at the mouth of Green Harbor river. The permanent population of the region lying about Green Harbor is not large—probably less than 200—but the attractions of the place are sufficient to bring here in summer nearly 2500 temporary residents."

"The region about Green Harbor was occupied by settlers from Plymouth soon after the establishment of the Colony, and in the Court Records, under date of July 1, 1633, appears the following entry: 'That unless Mr. Gilson, John Shaw and the rest that undertooke the cutting of the passage between Green's Harbor & the bay, finish it before the first of October next ensuing, according to covenant, they be amerced in ten pounds; but if any of them will doe it, the fine be exacted of the rest. & they paid for their labour.'

“Early in 1636 there is another order of the court, that the cut at Green’s Harbor for a boat passage be made 18 feet wide and six feet deep, and the governor with certain assistants was authorized to do the work. The cut referred to in these extracts is evidently a channel cut to enable boats to pass from Plymouth Harbor to Green Harbor river, and thereby avoid going outside the Gurnet.

“In 1785 a petition was presented to the General Court asking for an act to prevent the use of Marshfield beach for grazing purposes. No act was granted at this time, but in connection with this petition a copy of a will was presented, in which the marsh lands in the vicinity of Bass creek, a tributary of the Green Harbor river, entering it about a mile above the dike, are referred to as salt ‘marshes.’ No further reference that is of interest in connection with Green Harbor is found in the Colonial Records. Upon the map of Marshfield made in 1794, on file in the department of the secretary of the Commonwealth, the mouth of Green Harbor river is shown to be about five-eighths of a mile south of its present outlet.”

“The first mention of Green Harbor that is of interest in the Acts and Resolves of the State, is in 1807, when an act was passed to establish a corporation for the purpose of draining Green’s Harbor marsh, so called, in the town of Marshfield. The petition for this act appears to have been presented to the House of Representatives on May 29, 1806, and is as follows:

“The subscribers, owners and occupants of certain meadows, lying in the town of Marshfield in the County of Plymouth humbly represent, that whereas a certain River, called Green’s Harbor River in said town of Marshfield has in times passed afforded an outlet to the waters, which have overflowed about two thousand acres of said Marsh, & whereas lately the mouth of said River has been closed, by beach sand, confining a great body of water on said Marsh,



which may prove entirely destructive of said meadows and it has become absolutely necessary that said water should be drawn off in the most convenient manner possible, and Whereas, we the subscribers, owners and occupants of the said Marsh aforesaid, for the preservation of the same, have associated for the purpose of draining said waters from said Marsh into Duxboro Bay, by digging a canal for said water and having in said enterprise expended about the sum of three thousand dollars for the purpose aforesaid, pray the Honorable Court, that we & our associates may be incorporated into a Body Politic, to manage the above undertaking and be possessed of all the powers and priveleges, usually granted to similar incorporations and as in duty bound will ever pray—

“(Signed)

Isaac Winslow, and others.’

“In response to this petition, Chapter 39 of the Acts of 1807 was passed on Feb. 11, 1807, incorporating the Green’s Harbor Canal Co., for the purpose of draining Green’s Harbor Marsh in the town of Marshfield.”

“An act was passed in 1831 by the General Court, on petition of the Green’s Harbor Canal Co., dissolving that company for the reason, as claimed by the company, that the purposes for which the corporation was created had been effected so far as the same was practicable.

“The dike was completed in the year 1872, at a cost of \$32,090.79, and subsequently, in 1879, was widened to carry the road from Green Harbor to Brant Rock. The Acts of 1871 authorized the construction of a dam and dike across Green Harbor river for the purpose of ‘improving the Green Harbor Marsh in the town of Marshfield and for other purposes.’ Following the building of the dam and dike came certain changes in the small harbor at the mouth of the river. The effect of these changes was a serious one for the fishermen of the village, causing much contention.”

“It is undoubtedly true that this small harbor has deteri-



orated since the building of the dike, and we believe that the dike is responsible for a portion of the mischief done, but, as will be seen by the brief statement of the history of this river, it is not clear that the harbor has been at any time safe from a calamity similar to that which befell it in the earlier years of the century. That such catastrophes in harbors of this character are not uncommon may be learned from the history of the North river, only a few miles distant from this place."

"The removal of the dike would not by any means restore a condition of things existing before the construction of this barrier. An amount of water far in excess of anything before known would tear through the light sands which form the margins of the harbor, and produce effects which cannot easily be measured, but which we have every reason to suppose would be disastrous."

"The builders of the dike were sanguine in their expressions of belief in the value of the reclaimed marshes for agricultural purposes; but we find many residents of Green Harbor who have serious doubts as to the real value of these fields. We were fortunately able to draw to our assistance Edmund Hersey, Esq., of Hingham, whose wide experience and ample knowledge in the science and art of agriculture have made him a much valued authority in this department.

From his report we make the following extracts:

"In my investigation of the Marshfield Dike meadow, to estimate its value for agricultural purposes, it seems to me to be necessary to ascertain, as near as possible, what has been produced on that portion which has been under cultivation the greatest number of years since the dam was built. Fortunately, for this information I do not have to depend on interested parties nor the statements of enthusiastic men. Soon after the dam was built, I was employed as editor of a prominent agricultural paper of New England. In this position it became my duty to thoroughly investigate every

new enterprise which related to agriculture; and the Green Harbor dike meadows received a watchful attention. I have visited the premises many times while the crops were being harvested, and at other seasons of the year. When I consider the discouraging circumstances under which the owners of this land have had to work, I am surprised at the great success which has attended their labors.

“As early as 1879, seven years after the dam was built, Dr. C. A. Goëssman, state chemist at the Agricultural College, Amherst, in a report on the improvement of salt marshes in the town of Marshfield, referring to the dike meadow land at Green Harbor, he remarks: “Many people doubted in the outset the general adaptation of the reclaimed sea marshes for the production of English grass without previous application of top-dressing of some kind or other; yet time has proved otherwise. Those who have seen the grass on these meadows during the past season, or witnessed the carting away of the many loads of good English hay, have had all doubts regarding their productiveness, under even moderate chances, removed. The results thus far obtained have been more than many of the friends of the enterprise anticipated; and have convinced even the most skeptical, who are open to conviction, of the exceeding natural richness of the soil, and its excellent adaptation for the cultivation of a variety of crops. Still greater results will be secured, no doubt, in future, providing the improvements are allowed to be developed unchecked by adverse judicial decision.”

“While visiting the Marshfield meadows on April 19, 1897, I found asparagus already up, very nearly high enough to cut. I was surprised at this, because my own asparagus had but just appeared above the surface of the ground, although growing on land so warm that I am usually the first to ship native asparagus to Boston markets. I was also surprised at the size of the stalks, they being much larger

than the first set of stalks which appear on my land. When I consider the fact that the land on which this asparagus was growing has produced large crops every year for twenty years, without fertilizers of any kind, and still produces better crops than my land, which has had six hundred dollars' worth of fertilizers to the acre applied to it during the last twenty years, it convinces me that this land, for garden purposes, surpasses any which I have ever examined. I noticed on the meadow, strawberry plants which had passed through the winter uninjured and were looking well; thus indicating that the strawberry will grow well on this land, after the top soil becomes well decomposed.

"On the third of July the meadows were visited to examine the hay which was then being harvested; it not being a good hay day, a very large proportion of the hay was raked in heaps, thus affording an excellent opportunity to judge of the amount produced on various parts of the meadow. While some portions of the land on which the hay was raked into heaps would, in my opinion, not produce quite two tons to the acre, a considerable portion of it would, I have no doubt, produce more than two tons to the acre, and some of it at least two and one-half tons per acre; and I think I may be safe in saying that the average would be two tons per acre. A number of years ago, while visiting these meadows, I saw one field of seventy acres that was being harvested; some of it was spread over the ground as left by the mower, but most of it was raked in windrows and heaps, ready to be loaded on wagons. This I estimated would produce an average of two tons to the acre. I was subsequently informed that seventy acres produced one hundred and fifty tons.

"When we consider that this was produced on land that had never had its natural richness increased by the application of any fertilizers, we realize, in a measure, the great value of the material which nature has for the ages been

storing up for man's future use, if he be wise enough to avail himself of it. As some persons have expressed doubts as to the good qualities of this hay, and others have stated that neither cows nor horses will eat it, I purchased some of last season's growth, to test it by the side of hay grown on my own farm, my horses to be the judges. My hay was what I have been selling for first quality, composed of redtop and timothy.

"The test was made in this way: I took about a half pound of the Marshfield hay in one hand, and the same quantity of my hay in the other, holding each bundle so that they would be of equal distance from the mouth of the horse; he first took a small quantity of my hay, but immediately turned to the Marshfield hay, and took from it a mouthful; and after this, although I put my hay in front of it, he would, every time, smell of mine, and then reach over and take a mouthful of the Marshfield hay; this he followed until he had eaten all of the Marshfield hay. The same test was made before the second horse, and was attended with the same result.

"While visiting the meadows on Sept. 22, I examined the crops of cranberries, Indian corn, and onions. Several cranberry bogs were visited, from which the fruit was being gathered. The present year not being as favorable as last year for the growth of this fruit, I did not find the crop so large. One of the growers estimated that he should get one hundred barrels per acre, but in my judgment, formed after forty years' experience in the business, I should say seventy-five barrels would be nearer right, but, even if there be only fifty barrels to the acre, this would secure a net profit of one hundred and fifty dollars to the acre, if sold at the price which I am selling my berries for today. The lower levels of this land, if not high enough to be readily drained for small fruits, grain, and vegetables, I have no doubt can be profitably used for the growth of the cranberry.

“The season being unfavorable, the corn crop was not large, but from what I saw I should think it would yield fifty bushels to the acre. The onions were rather above an average crop grown by market gardeners who use large quantities of fertilizer. Both of these crops were grown without the application of any kind of fertilizers, and on land that for more than twenty years has produced large crops of hay, grain, and vegetables; and yet, to all appearances, the soil is in the best condition for the production of large crops of small fruits and garden vegetables.

“The several close examinations which at different times I have made of that part of the meadow which has been thoroughly drained and cropped from ten to twenty years or more, led to the belief that the mechanical condition of the soil is better adapted to the growth of garden fruits and vegetables than any land I have ever examined; and that it retains its richness to a wonderful degree, is proved by recent analysis of the soil, as well as by the large crops it produces without the aid of fertilizers.

“An examination of the dam shows that, when an effort was made to destroy it, the injury was such that it has never been made tight, but at every tide a large quantity of sea water finds its way through the injured part. It is evident to me that, if the owners of the land could be assured that the dam would be permitted to remain unmolested by legal tribunals, and individuals who pay no respect to law, it would be but a short time before the sea-water would be shut out, and the whole meadow drained in a systematic way. When this is done, it would be but a short time before not only the salt from the surface of the lowest levels would be washed out, but the subsoil of the whole meadow would be freshened sufficient to increase the large crops which are now grown on the improved portions, and the whole territory so improved that it would produce as large crops as the best of it now produces. This being evident,



justice demands that my estimate of the agricultural value of this land should be based on what would be its condition if the dam had been uninjured, and the owners had possessed full confidence that whatever improvements they might make would not be interfered with, either legally or illegally.

"The careless observer, who knows nothing of the history of the opposition and the discouragements which the owners of this land have met with in their efforts to make improvements, might, and undoubtedly would, come to the conclusion that the portion of the meadow which has not been improved is of but little value; but those who thoroughly investigate the whole subject, and make themselves familiar with its complete history, fully realize that the whole territory can be easily changed to a condition to insure large crops of small fruits, garden vegetables, or the best quality of hay; and, what is most surprising to those who grow these on higher levels, they have been grown, and will continue to be grown, without fertilizers. If I am to estimate the true value of this land, I am quite sure that I must consider the fact that for twenty or more years it has produced large crops without the application of manure or fertilizers of any kind, and that the soil shows no evidence of losing its fertility for many years yet to come; although to do so I am aware that it will bring its value up to a sum that will seem unreasonable to those who do not give the subject careful, intelligent thought, or who have not had experience in buying large quantities of fertilizers to keep up the fertility of a market-gardener's farm.'

"I have the evidence that one measured acre has produced 6,800 pounds of hay in a season, and another acre 34 bushels of rye and 5454 pounds of straw. The lower levels of the meadow are admirably adapted to the growth of the cranberry; so well that when grown by those who understand the business it will pay quite as well as any other crop

which can be grown on the higher levels; thus the whole 1400 acres can be utilized for various crops at a large profit.' "

The commissioners say: "In allowing the tide waters to flow in over this area by the removal of the dam, this lowered area (dike lands) would be covered by salt water for so long a period over every tide that vegetation would be destroyed, and the area, as land, would be changed into mud flats, and become practically valueless. We are informed that about 1031 acres of this marsh area is appraised, for the purposes of taxation, at \$22,335, a low estimate."

"The mouth of Green Harbor empties into Massachusetts Bay in a general southeasterly direction. On the northeast it is protected by a point of rocks. The movement of the shore current, which bears along the drift, is from the south, and this has a tendency to close the river mouth. The dash of the waves in heavy, especially in southeasterly storms, brings more or less sand into the harbor. From the northeasterly storms the rocky promontory affords the harbor adequate protection. The material which has filled up the harbor has probably come in from the outside, from the south and southeast. The ebb current from Green Harbor proper has not been strong enough to preserve a channel of sufficient depth at low tide to answer the requirements of the vessels which anchor there. Under present conditions there is no reason to look forward to any improvement in the depth of the interior basin or the channel. Any change is more likely to result in gradual shoaling.

"A plan for improving this condition has been developed which, it is believed, will successfully preserve the usefulness of the harbor and increase its depth of water, both at the entrance, where a depth of from thirty inches to four feet at mean low water is desired, and in the harbor above,



where the boats lie at their moorings. This plan is to dredge an anchorage basin with a channel thereto, and to build two jetties and a training wall." [The jetties spoken of have already been mentioned in the early part of the account of the dike.]

*Green Harbor—Green Harbor River, and the Salt Marshes.*

"The lower portion of Green Harbor river was at one time a tidal stream, meandering through extensive salt marshes, which bordered the stream for a distance of about six miles from its mouth, and it received also the flow of a small water shed, the total drainage area above its mouth, being about seven and five-tenths square miles. There are numerous summer cottages and a small fishing village along the shores of the ocean and harbor in the vicinity of the outlet, but the remainder of the water shed contains no villages. The upland portions are inhabited by a scattered farming population, and much of the territory is wooded.

"The marshes through which the river flowed lie just back of the sea-coast line, and extend from the vicinity of the mouth of the river for a distance of two and a half miles in a northwesterly direction. Their inland limits are generally from one and a half to two miles from the coast line, though a comparatively narrow strip along the river extends further inland. They are separated from the ocean by a barrier consisting of two acres of upland, and known as Branch's and Hewitt's Islands, and by sand and shingle between the islands and north and south of them."

"In making the surveys of the meadows above the dike, it was found that they had settled materially after reclamation of the surface of the meadows just above the dike, being two feet or more lower than that of the unreclaimed salt marshes below the dike, which were found to be generally at or near the level of mean high tide."

*The Construction of the Dike.*

"The dike, as already stated, is located a little over two-

thirds of a mile from the mouth of Green Harbor, at a place where the upland approaches the river on both sides. The total length of the dike is about 1600 feet, and its top is nearly level and is at about grade 14.6 above mean low water, the lowest depression being at grade 13.1, and the highest place at grade 15.2. The bottom of the river in this vicinity is about six feet below mean tide, and the river has a width of about 500 feet. The dike has an average width at the top of about 22 feet, and forms the roadway connecting the villages of Green Harbor and Brant Rock. It is said that originally its width was much less, but that it was widened by the construction of the road in 1879.

"From such information as has been obtained as to the construction of the dike, it appears that sheet piling was driven in a line across the river, and that the piling was surrounded by a filling of stones and gravel. It appears also that during construction the tide passed through a flume which was subsequently closed by stop planks, and the whole covered with stone and gravel filling. Two sluices were laid through the dike, each four feet high and three and a half feet wide inside, and having the bottom at the upper end at about grade 1.61 and the lower end at about grade 1.56 above mean low water. The capacity of the sluices is, however, reduced by upright timbers four inches thick, placed at intervals of about four feet along the inner sides.

"At the outer end of each of the sluices are tide gates, which are closed automatically by the tide when it rises above the level of the water inside the dike, and are designed to keep salt water from passing through the sluices from the harbor to the river above the dike. In addition to the tide gates at the outer end, there is also a tide gate in each flume not far from its inner end, apparently introduced subsequently to the construction of the dike, to assist in keeping out water from the harbor when the tide is higher

than the level of the water inside the dike. At the end of each of the sluices, on the inner side of the dike, is a sluice gate, designed to control the level of the water in the river above the dike.

"It appears to be the practice to leave these sluice-gates partially open at all times, and to raise or lower them only at infrequent intervals, whenever it is desired to raise or lower the water in the river above the dike."

"The water above the dike in the summer season, in an ordinary year, may be kept down to a level about 0.3 of a foot above the average of low water just outside the dike, the level of low water in this portion of the harbor being found to average about 3.5 feet above mean low water at the outlet of the harbor."

"The main drain of the meadows is the Green Harbor river, which drains an area above the dike of about 6.9 square miles, as measured by the state map."

"The sharp contrast between the elevation of the marshes just below the dike and that of the meadows just above it, leaves no doubt of the subsidence in the level of the meadows in this vicinity. The soil, both of the salt marshes and of the meadows above the dike, contains a large amount of small roots and fibre."

"The shrinkage in the meadows appears to be due to the draining of the water out of them and the subsequent decomposition of the roots and fibres of the soil, which allowed the soil to become more compact, and it is very probable that practically all of the shrinkage has occurred above the present water level in the river and creeks." Dr. Stephen Henry and Geo. M. Baker have been the leading spirits in the construction and perpetuation of the Dike.

There is at this time, in the year 1900, quite a large village at Green Harbor, also known as Cut River, occupied by permanent residents and non-residents. It is quite a seashore resort and is supported largely by summer boarders, boating and fishing. The Webster House is the largest hotel there. In the summer season it is quite a lively place and is visited by many tourists, as well as the neighboring and larger village of Brant Rock.

## CHAPTER XLIX.

### *Brant Rock.*

This sketch of Brant Rock I obtained from T. B. Blackman, Esq., one of the earliest permanent residents of the Rock. I will give it in his own words, as follows:

"I have known Brant Rock for sixty years. In those days there was not much to attract people to these shores but the sea fowl in the fall of the year, which then were very abundant. My father visited Brant Rock even before I knew the place; I could not have been more than six years of age. He came down gunning, his gun burst in his hands, and his lower arm was blown to pieces, which laid him up for a long time. It was a great treat in my boyhood days to come to the shore and get lobsters from under the rocks with a gaff hook. I gathered strawberries from the pastures, which in those days were plenty.

"I do not remember of any house in early days at Brant Rock proper, westerly of the Rock. There was a house located up the beach north from what is now called Ocean Bluff; this was known as the Charity House, in which was kept a stove, a little wood and a few matches. It was provided and equipped by the Massachusetts Humane Society for the mariner when driven upon the beach by storms.

"In those days the grass growing on this beach was a source of litigation, many thinking they had a right to let their cattle feed upon it, while others thought this grass a strong protection to the beaches and should not be fed. It hazarded all that property westerly of the beach, and finally an ordinance or law was passed, prohibiting the feeding of the grasses, and in my opinion it was a wise provision and should have continued for all time. These uplands, to-

gether with the beach at Brant Rock, were in early days known as Spectacle Island, the upper island forming one eye, the lower island the other. The strip of beach at Brant Rock [the nose piece, or bridge] at this date was but a cartway leading from Marshfield Neck through the beach and across the two islands to the easterly side of Green Harbor river.

"The house in which I now live was built in the year 1835; there was a house on the upper island at this time, but when built is not known; this house was burned in 1835 or 1836. Three houses have been burned on that island. When I came here, in 1856, there was but a cartway, with four gates to open to reach my place. There had been some little improvement made in the way at the north end, the slough had been filled with stone, and a bridge was constructed, but across the beach it was mud and sand. I have crossed this beach when I could not go more than the length of my team at a pull.

"In 1845 there was a house built at Brant Rock by Samuel Turner of Hanover, Mr. Tribou of Hanson, and a Mr. Jordan; this was known as a gun house, owned by these men. There was a house also at the north end of what is now known as Ocean Bluff, built by Africa Keene of South Abington. Below and westerly of my house, near Green Harbor river, four small houses were built in 1848 on land of Gideon Harlow. These houses were occupied in the summer by lobster fishermen, viz.: Henry Crossley, Gher-sham Sampson, George Sampson, Frank Washburn, and others. In 1853 another house was built by Anselm Robinson of Bridgewater, who at that time took a lease of the land and later purchased the same of the heirs of Gideon Harlow.

"In 1861, the first year of the Civil war, the Pioneer Cottage was built by Capt. George Churchill, Charles Brown, Edwin Reed, and others, of Boston. They took a lease of the land for five years, but bought it before their lease ex-

pired. In 1866 the Churchill Hotel was built and run by George Churchill. Then followed the building of the Wrightman Cottage, the Pierce (south from the hotel), also the Howland & Jones and the George Hatch cottages, the last two being north from the Pioneer. They were built by Samuel Turner. Mr. Walter Peterson built in 1870 or 1871.

"The Brant Rock House was built in 1874 and was run by Henry T. Welch of Cambridgeport. S. B. Richmond of Lynn built in 1874. Ocean House, by Paine & Bonney, was built about 1875. Gilman Stetson of South Hanover built the same year. Fair-View House was built by Martin Swift of Bridgewater about 1877. There were many houses built in 1875 and 1876. I have mentioned but few of them.

A lumber yard was established in the fall of 1870 by T. B. Blackman. The lumber was brought from Maine and the West. This made good business till the shoaling of the river, caused by building the dike. Sales of lumber in 1875 amounted to more than \$5000, and would have become a fine business but for the shoaling of the harbor and river.

"Mr. Edwin Reed built in the year 1881. Charles Sprague built in 1876, and George Thomas in 1878. The highway from the First Congregational church in Marshfield to the Beach was laid out in 1692. From Waterman's Causeway to the land of Thomas Liversidge, a road was built in 1862. From this point through Brant Rock village to the Pioneer Cottage the road was laid out in 1867. The Dike road was built in 1879. From the Pioneer Cottage over Ocean avenue to a point near the house of T. B. Blackman, a road was laid out in 1890."



## CHAPTER L.

### *Ventress Memorial Gift.*

Mr. Seth Ventress, a native of Marshfield, Mass., a bachelor, and the founder of Ventress Memorial Building, pursued the occupation of a mason most of his life, and accumulated quite a small fortune in that business in the city of Boston. He left by his will at his decease the sum of ten thousand dollars to the town of Marshfield near the close of the 19th century, the sum to remain in trust until the interest thereon amounted to \$2000, at which time the principal, \$10,000, was to be spent in erecting a suitable building for the town's use, which was to include suitable rooms for a Free Public Library, and the accumulated \$2000 interest to be spent in the purchase of books for the library.

In about five years after the amount of the bequest was put to interest, the building was erected on its present site, near the Marshfield Agricultural and Horticultural Society grounds, on land purchased of Franklin W. Hatch. It is a wooden structure, modern in style, and finished within to suit the wants and needs of the town. Well equipped library rooms are arranged on the first floor; the upper floor was finished for a Town Hall and furnished with seats. The town officers' rooms are on the first floor. A High school room capable of seating forty or more was finished and is occupied by the High school.

In the basement there is a "Lock-up," so called, two cells, made of brick, with iron grating doors, for the safe, temporary keeping of criminals. A large brick vault was also built for the preservation of the town's funds and valuable documents. A short time after the building was erected, the town, at a town meeting, voted to move from the old



Town House into the new hall in the Ventress Memorial Building, and has since held its town meetings and elections in this hall, now called the Town Hall.

The school committee serve as trustees of the library, and have sole charge of its management. It now contains some 3000 volumes. The town voted to send by express to all the postoffices in town books from the library once a week to patrons demanding them, free of charge. The town appropriates annually about \$300 for its support, a part of which is devoted for the purchase of books. The library is open two days each week. Its first librarian was Miss Rosa M. Sprague (now Mrs. Ames). The present officer is Joshua Baker.

The old Town Hall, which was used the larger part of the last century for town meetings, elections and caucuses, was abandoned and sold at public auction to Luther White for a small sum, and moved down to the Ferry and converted into a stable. Here was where the soldiers were recruited for the Civil war, and here was where the Hon. Daniel Webster came to meet his townsmen year after year and cast his vote as a citizen of Marshfield. It was here, when the Hon. Edward Little (a Quaker, and many years town clerk) said to Webster, when some disputed question in the meeting arose, and a motion was made to divide the house, the persons voting yea to stand on one side of the house, and those voting nay to stand on the other side, Webster, undecided on which side to turn, stood in the middle of the floor, when Little (having in mind his uncertain attitude in the Senate at that time in his feelings towards the South) called out to him, "Friend Webster, thee has been standing on the fence long enough; turn to one side or the other." It created a storm of applause, and Webster, good naturedly, took his position on the side of his choice.

## CHAPTER LI.

### *Daniel Webster.*

One of the most prominent men who can be claimed as a citizen of Marshfield is the late Hon. Daniel Webster. There are many, undoubtedly, who would place him as the most prominent man; we do not. Edward Winslow, one of the three most able men in the old Plymouth Colony, and Governor of the Colony, a man in whose ability and integrity the great ruler of England, Oliver Cromwell, placed so much confidence, the father and founder of Marshfield, was perhaps as great a man in his day as Webster, but in a different sense. Winslow was the *builder* of a nation; Webster was the *preserver* of a nation. The former was one of a trio who gave life and being to the march of civilization in the incipient stages of our country's development, while the other was the defender and protector of the Union of States, formed in the days of the Revolution for self defence.

Nor were Webster or the elder Winslow the only prominent citizens of Marshfield. Josiah Winslow, the first native Governor in New England and America, and the first commander-in-chief of the New England forces, was their equal in his day. As commander-in-chief of the New England forces during King Philips' Indian war in 1676, he was acknowledged as the preserver of the Colonies in that dark period of its early and terrible struggles for a foothold on this continent. He was a scholar and a man of sufficient brain power to cope with any emergency. Others were prominent, very prominent, but these three distinguished names place Marshfield in the front rank of the historic towns of New England, and we hardly know in what order to place the renowned three.

E. M. Bacon says: "Webster, a born farmer and true lover of nature, was drawn to Marshfield for a country home by the rural beauty of its situation, and to this particular part through agreeable visits which he made to it when the Thomases resided there. Capt. John Thomas's family were then living in the old mansion house. His first purchase here was made about the year 1827, (after the death of Capt. Thomas) of the old house, with that portion of the landed estate possessed by the tory Nathaniel Ray Thomas, before the revolution, which was reserved unconfiscated at the close of the war as a dower for his widow. To his original purchase Webster subsequently made repeated additions till his domain extended over two thousand acres, including that portion of the ancient Careswell estate, which embraced Gov. Winslow's home lot. [This estate included a part of what is known as Cut River and Brant Rock.] He stocked it with blooded cattle, herds of sheep and fine horses. He had large collections of Chinese poultry, guinea hens, and other fowl. Gay peacocks strutted over the lawn, which swept away from his Mansion house, and among his live stock were some curious llamas. He embellished the extensive grounds with a multitudinous array of trees of many varieties; a hundred thousand of them grown from seeds of his own planting. The original Mansion house (of Capt. Thomas) was more than doubled, and with its numerous gables showing above the trees, suggested when approached in the distance, the famous 'Abbotsford.' Beside the Mansion house and its outbuildings, there were on the estate the farmer's house, the dairy man's cottage, the fisherman's house and other buildings, including the statesman's private office, now standing."

This old mansion was burned about two decades after the decease of Webster, and the erection of the present one, on the same site, followed soon after. It was occupied by Mrs. Fletcher Webster and family, daughter-in-law

of the statesman. It was here, while occupied by Mrs. Webster, that the President of the United States, President Arthur, at the Centennial of Webster's birth in 1883, visited the spot and was heartily welcomed by thousands of people assembled to do him and the dead Webster honor. Some time after this event the estate was sold to Mr. Walton Hall, a native of Marshfield Hills, and a wholesale merchant in Boston. Mr. Hall and family are still its occupants. Webster's original estate, after his decease, was parcelled and sold at different times, until the large estate was reduced to two or three hundred acres at the time of Mr. Hall's purchase. Since that period he has bought several estates around him, and has regained some eight hundred or a thousand acres.

An extensive apple orchard of thirteen acres, planted by Webster a half a century or more ago, is still standing, and bearing heavy crops of apples.

Mr. Webster's foreman, C. Porter Wright, and Chas. Peterson (his boy) who attended his gunning and fishing rambles, are still living. It is said of him while on one of his gunning sports, over the marshes of Marshfield, not far from his house, he was accosted by a couple of tourists from Boston, who were attempting to cross a small flooded stream; they could not jump it, and espying an old man not far away, yelled to him to come and carry them over. The old man responded, and having on a pair of high, rubber hunting boots, took one upon his back and carried him across and then the other. They then asked him if he could show them the way to Webster's. "Why, yes," said he, "I am going there, come with me. You are addressing Mr. Webster." Amazed at this announcement, they felt like skulking away, but soon plucked up courage and followed the statesman to his home, where they were warmly welcomed.

At Marshfield Hills there is what is known as Walker's Pond, formerly a mill was close to it. A Mr. Walker owned

and ran it. Webster liked to come to the pond to fish for trout. One morning on arrival, he noticed that the mill was not running, and asked a boy standing near, why it was not. "Father," the boy replied, "hurt his leg badly this morning, and can't run the mill." Webster pulled out his wallet and emptied the entire contents, (some \$20.00), gave it to the boy, and told him to run and give it to his father.

## CHAPTER LII.

### *The New Mouth of North River.*

Nov. 27th, 1898, will long be remembered as the severest storm known among the oldest inhabitants during the century. It was unquestionably a tidal wave that cut a hole through the beach, between the Third and Fourth Cliffs. The cut was made directly opposite the angle in the North River, which opened a new mouth to the river and caused it to run straight to the sea. At the time the storm (snow storm) was raging, there were some gunners in gunning shanties on the islands in the river. Some of the gunners had anticipated the storm the night before and left their domiciles for their homes; but four young men remained until the following day, and the cut was made so suddenly—the ocean pouring in the river in torrents—these four young men attempted to escape in a small row boat, but the fury of the storm and the flood was too severe for them, their boat capsized and they drifted to an island, but everything was soon submerged and they were all drowned. Their names were Geo. Ford of Marshfield Hills, and Mr. Tilden and two Henderson boys of Norwell. The old mouth is some three or four miles below the new mouth. The course of the river before the storm ran easterly, as it approached the inner side of the beach, and when it reached the bar it turned at right angles and flowed southerly, inside the bar and cliffs, down to what is known as Beetle's rocks to the sea. The old mouth, within the memory of citizens now living, has shifted from time to time, at one time southerly from its present outlet and then northerly, so that the mouth during the past century had varied in its course from a half mile to a mile. When the new mouth was made by the great storm a little distance



from the northerly end of the fourth Cliff, the old mouth began to partially fill up, and is now, in 1901, so filled up that teams can pass over it. It is a part of the beach, and continuous. The South River, which has always, as far as known, emptied its waters into the sea at the old mouth of the North River, now flows down to the new mouth.

When the new mouth was made, the current of the river flowing to the old mouth was largely changed, and took an opposite, or northerly direction, running to the new mouth and out to the ocean. The river as it approaches the new mouth is nearly a mile wide. At first the opening of the mouth was some 200 feet wide, and about ten feet deep. It has since widened, and is now some three or four hundred feet wide; at low tide about fourteen or sixteen feet deep. The current is very strong and rapid.

About a year ago, a steam tug attached to a large barge loaded with lumber, passed through it, and sailed down to Humarock bridge. The vessel unloaded and returned through the new mouth to the sea. The northerly end of Fourth Cliff is washing away rapidly, and it is claimed that an acre of the cliff has worn away since the opening of the new mouth. The beach between said Cliff and the cut is at every high tide washed over by the surf of the sea, and undoubtedly in time this bar will be washed away and the mouth widened and extended to the Fourth Cliff.

The meadow bank inside the bar is very hard and tough, hence difficult for the tide to wear it away; but it is nevertheless cutting it, and every year it can be seen that the navigable space is widening, so that in time, it is hoped, a large bay or harbor will be formed inside to enable yachts to anchor there.

Application was made the present year, by the author, to get an appropriation from Congress in the River and Harbor bill for a sum to investigate the feasibility of dredging inside the new mouth, which it is claimed by seafaring men, will



make one of the best harbors of refuge between Boston and Provincetown, but owing to the failure of the passage of the River and Harbor bill by Congress, we will have to wait.

The new mouth enabling the tide from the ocean to flow directly upon our salt marshes, (some 5,000 acres) has caused a great loss to our farmers, by the flooding of the meadows and killing the grasses. Before the opening of the new mouth our farmers gathered large crops of Salt hay and Black grass, which carried their cattle through the winter moderately well, and horses were partly fed by farmers with Salt hay. It has been observed, however, that Prickear—the Salt hay of the marsh—is coming in gradually, so that the salt meadows in summer begin to show a green covering, but a difficulty arises in getting it, while before it could remain on the marsh after cut a week or fortnight between the semi-monthly tide; now it must be removed between the daily tides, to escape the daily flood covering the marsh. The great storm, after the cut was made, washed away the railroad, passing over the marshes, but the track was soon replaced; it is feared, however, in time, it will again feel the effects of a very severe storm, although the road has been built higher and is considered much safer. The storm, after the new mouth opened, washed away the causeway between Scituate and Marshfield, approaching Little's bridge, some two miles from the cut. It has since been repaired and raised a number of feet, and is now considered safe, although a very high tide, with an easterly storm, washes over it at times. All along the course of the river by Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke and Hanover, the greatly increased tide since the opening, is daily felt.

Clam beds have been formed since the cut was made, on flats near there, and although at present the clams are small, many are dug and carried away.

Marshfield obtained from the Legislature in 1900, an appropriation of \$20,000 to repair the damage along its coasts

by the great storm. Brant Rock was damaged most, and received one half the appropriation. Many of the buildings there were injured, and roads were badly damaged. The severity of the storm was so great that the inhabitants at this beach were fearful of the safety of their lives. Some fled to the Life Saving Station, and here the storm forced the stout doors open, and stones were thrown across the floor with terrific force, the inmates were obliged to flee up stairs; the meeting houses also were resorted to as a place of refuge. No lives were lost on the beach.

From the \$20,000 appropriation, which was put into the hands of the County Commissioners, a portion was reserved to build a new bridge, where Little's Bridge is now located, Marshfield portion being one half, and Scituate the other half. A year or more ago a bridge was built in place of the old Union Bridge over North River between Marshfield and Norwell, the expense being divided between the two towns. It is a steel bridge, with a draw in the middle.

There is not as much fishing in the river, as there was years ago. Herring is the principal species running from Marshfield up to Hanover. These are caught in the spring, principally by seines, which are stretched into the river, a number of rods, in different places, along the several border towns, and are caught by thousands, salted, partially dried, and sold by peddlers through the county. Shad, years ago, were caught in these seines along with herring, but they are now scarce. Perch are caught in fair quantities. In winter eels are speared to a considerable extent. Holes are made in the ice, and long poles that will sink deep in the river with small nets attached to catch them. A small sail against the wind is put up near the hole, and the fishermen stand in sheltered spots and catch their fish. They often fish at night, using lanterns to guide themselves.

A dozen or more years ago a law, or regulation, was passed forbidding seining for herring for five years, to enable the

Fish Commissioner to stock the river with salmon. The experiment was faithfully tried for the full term, but was a total failure, for I have never heard of any salmon worth mentioning being caught in the river.

It was somewhere about the year, 1843, that an effort was made to have the U. S. Government cut a hole through the beach, near the present new mouth, between the Third and Fourth Cliff, and Ex-President John Quincy Adams, then Representative to Congress, was induced to ride down to Marshfield and visit the spot where the new cut was desired. But after a hearing from the citizens pro and con, the authorities thought it not feasible, chiefly on account of the injury it was claimed would be caused to the meadows near the upland and islands by overflow or strong tides. But nothing daunted a large party gathered together, and with picks, hoes, shovels, axes, etc., etc., with plenty of ox teams and horse teams to convey them, marched in the darkness of the night, with lanterns in hand to the beach, and there they began operations, dug and toiled throughout the vigils of the night. They dared not undertake the task in the day time, because it would be a criminal offense to be caught infringing against the rights of property vested in the United States.

Morning came and the party journeyed back to their homes, not, however, until they had partially, if not wholly, accomplished their purpose in getting a cut or hole through the beach from the river to the sea, but the great obstacle towards the complete accomplishment of their purpose, was the hard meadow bank, nearly as hard as rock, underlying the sandy and muddy upper strata of the river bed.

The river flowed partially through the cut, but in a short time it filled up again, and thus all the labors of these River Patriots were in vain, but it is the opinion of the author that the filling in was never again as solid and compact as before the cut was made, and probably the force of the sea in the

great storm of 1898 found it easier to force a hole or cut through the beach than would have been the case before the artificial cut was made a half a century or more ago, for it is the general opinion of those citizens now living, and midnight partakers in the artificial cut of 1843, that it is in the same spot as now occupied by the new mouth. It is also the opinion of the author, and advanced by him years before the cut was made by the great storm, that the river, centuries ago, flowed directly to the sea, as at present, instead of turning at right angles and flowing for three or four miles inside of the cliffs, which he thinks is proven by the course it now takes.

When the midnight cutaways were stealing their march to the sea to cut a hole, they stopped at the house of Ed. Little (a Quaker) on the way, and asked him if they could take his yoke of oxen to work on the cut, he replied, "No!" but I'll tell thee where thee can find the yoke," and they were not long in finding it and the oxen.

The desire was so great in the last century to have a hole cut through the beach, that they could not rest until they made another attempt, and it is not to be wondered why this desire was so strong, for there is but a narrow strip of land which might be called a bar between the river and the ocean, only a few rods wide, and it was thought it would be such a help to navigation to sail straight from the river into the sea, and save miles sailing down the river through the old mouth; hence about 17 or 20 years after the first cut, another hole was made farther south, the southerly side of Fourth Cliff. Having gained permission of the powers that be, the citizens began it in the day time, and I am informed by those living here at the time and engaged in the enterprise, that it took two or three weeks to accomplish the task. Temporary success attended their efforts, and the River flowed directly to the sea through the new cut, but it was not long before the cut filled up with sand, the current not being strong enough

to keep it clear, and so the second attempt brought no lasting results. It is now nearly three years since nature opened the new mouth, and it is continually growing wider and deeper. It is undoubtedly open for all time.

## CHAPTER LIII.

### *Marshfield Hills.*

The name of Marshfield Hills was given and secured in place of East Marshfield by the author in the year, 1890.

The officials of the railroad were induced to change the name of the station, and that of the post office was changed by the authorities in Washington. The reason for the change was because letters were frequently missent to East Mansfield, instead of East Marshfield, also packages and freight. Other names were proposed, one by the railroad authorities, "Rexham," another desired to call it "Prospect Heights," but it was argued with the railroad officials and our Congressman at Washington, that we did not want to lose the name of Marshfield, for the latter was identified with Webster and Winslow, and was known and recognized away from here as the home of those eminent men. Marshfield Hills was accepted, and the name soon became a popular one at the Hills and elsewhere.

The "Hills" is a very appropriate one to our village, for extensive hills are numerous. There are very desirable sites for residences, as an extended view of the ocean is had from them, also of Cape Ann, and those seaport towns, Gloucester, Marblehead and others.



## CHAPTER LIV.

### *Railroad.*

The Duxbury and Cohasset railroad, a continuation of the South Shore railroad from Cohasset, was built about the year, 1868. It was built largely by the three towns through which it passes, Scituate, Marshfield and Duxbury, with some aid from the Old Colony Railroad Corporation. A great effort was made by the citizens of East Marshfield to have it run through the middle of the village, locating the station somewhere in the region of what is known as "Bear's Brook," by the road leading over it from Rodger's Corners to Sea View. Meetings were held to favor this, but the railroad authorities opposed it, and it was located down at one end of the village, nearer the shore, as the purpose was to make it a shore road. It cost Marshfield about \$75,000. One director was appointed from each town to represent them. Scituate was represented by Joseph Cole; Marshfield by the Hon. Nathaniel Whiting, and Duxbury by Stephen Gifford, these acted in conjunction with the Old Colony Railroad Directors. After a few years it was found the road was not paying its way, and an effort was made by the Old Colony road to buy each town's interest, and finally it was sold to the said road for \$15,000 by the three towns, making \$5,000, only, for each, being an immense sacrifice on the cost. This left Marshfield with a debt of \$70,000, and it has been groaning under this incubus for years, although it has been gradually decreasing, by an appropriation made yearly of from one to two thousand dollars by the town to a sinking fund, which it established shortly after the sale of the road. The Sinking Fund Com-

missioners turned over to the town in March, 1901, the total amount accumulated in their hands, which reduced the debt over \$30,000, so that the debt stands at present about \$35,000.

## CHAPTER LV.

### *Marshfield in its Corporate Capacity.*

The valuation of the town in 1900 was:

Real estate,	\$1,223,435
Personal estate,	105,810
	<hr/>
Total,	\$1,329,245

Amount voted by the town in 1900 for the ensuing year's expenses was \$23,000.

Rate of taxation for 1900, \$18.50 per thousand. In 1901, \$14.00 per thousand.

Number of inhabitants in 1900,	1810
Number of voters registered, about	440
Number of residents assessed on property as individuals,	560
All others,	84
Number of non-residents assessed on property, mostly at the beaches,	474
Number of dwelling houses assessed,	921
Number of acres of land assessed,	15,929
Number of horses assessed,	458
Number of cows assessed,	316
Number of cattle other than cows assessed.	93
Number of swine assessed,	23
Number of sheep assessed,	6
Number of fowl assessed,	2,910
Number of persons assessed, poll tax,	500
Value of buildings,	\$811,745
Value of land,	411,690

The principal officers of the town are as follows:

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor:

Nathaniel Taylor, John H. Eames and Hartley L. Thomas.

School Committee: Albert T. Sprague, Edgar L. Hitchcock and Herbert T. Rodgers.

Constables: Howard O. Damon and John Flavel.

Tree Warden: John Flavel.

School Superintendent: Edgar L. Willard.

Town Treasurer and Town Clerk: Geo. H. Weatherbee.

Auditor: William L. Sprague.

Formerly Highway Surveyors were chosen at the annual Town Meeting for each of the fifteen districts, but for the past two years the Selectmen were delegated by the town to act in that capacity, and they appoint deputy surveyors.

The annual town meeting is generally held on the first Monday of March. The population of Marshfield has increased but little in half a century. This is due in large measure to the going of young men and women on becoming of age, to the cities, where larger opportunities are open to them. Many have obtained a good education, the best that a common and a high school can furnish, and they are able to fill lucrative and responsible places that only persons of ability can supply.

There are no manufactories in town to give employment to men and women. Tilling the soil is the chief occupation and boys in the present era have a dislike to this calling. There is, however, a large and increasing, floating population, non-residents, who live, during the warm season, at Brant Rock, Green Harbor, Abington Village and other seashore resorts in Marshfield, hence while there is but little increase of legal residents, there is a large increase of those who pay taxes, and a large increase of dwelling houses. There is a tendency now manifest in the purchasing and building of dwellings for summer residences by business men from the city.

## CHAPTER LVI.

### *Cemeteries and Streets.*

The oldest cemetery in town is the old Winslow burying-ground, adjoining the Webster tomb in the South portion of the town. Here are buried the remains of some of the old Colonists. Mrs. Edward Winslow, wife of the governor, mother of Peregrine White, and mother of Governor Josiah Winslow, lies buried here. Here also are the remains of Peregrine White, claimed as the first white child born in New England, and here the first native born Governor of New England, Josiah Winslow, lies buried, and other Colonists. The remains of the Thomases, who were noted Colonists in Pilgrim days, and the ancestors of eminent men living before and during the Revolution, lie in this cemetery. Here lie the remains of one of the sweetest and greatest singers America has had, Miss Adelaide Phillips.

At the side of this holy ground is buried perhaps the greatest statesman America has produced, the eminent Daniel Webster, and his family, including his son, Major Edward, who was killed in the war with Mexico, and his other son, Col. Fletcher, who was killed in the Battle of Bull Run, in the Civil war of 1861. Probably there is no cemetery in New England more ancient, save at Plymouth, and none that holds more distinguished dead in its enclosure than the Winslow burying ground, and yet it is comparatively little known.

Then there is the cemetery at the southerly part of the town, adjoining the First Congregational church, near by the railroad station. Another is at Marshfield Hills, in the rear of the Unitarian church. A century or more ago, this church secured and laid out what was known as "God's

Acre," adjoining the site of the church, and they have controlled it ever since. Some stones date back to the 18th century, 1732. A superintendent of this cemetery is chosen by the church annually. East of this cemetery is another, adjoining it, being southwesterly of the Orthodox church.

At North Marshfield there is another cemetery which dates back a century or more. There is a small one at Center Marshfield, where the remains of Mr. Samuel Hall, a native of Marshfield, a noted shipbuilder, and the father-in-law of ex-Gov. Emery of Utah (now living at Sea View) lie buried with his wife. Another cemetery is at that part of the town called "Plainville," near the South Baptist church. There are said to be indications of a very ancient one on the hill at the rear of the residence of Mr. Appolonio, and front of the estate owned by Mr. Eames.

*Streets in Marshfield—Named in 1876.*

In 1876 the streets in Marshfield were named by the following committee, chosen by the town: Charles P. Wright, Stephen Gardner, Lysander S. Richards, Nathaniel Phillips, 2d, Israel H. Hatch, Stephen Henry, William Harrington, and Joseph Sherman. The following report the town accepted:

"The street leading from Union bridge south through Corn Hill to Pembroke line near the house of Nathaniel Church, to be called "Union street." From the corner near William C. Oakman's, west to Gravelly Beach, "Corn Hill avenue." From the corner of the house of Albert Joyce on Union street, southwest to Pembroke line, "West street." From Rogers Corner past the Second Baptist church and Nathaniel Phillips, 2d, to Union street, "Highland street." From the house of the late James Touhey, southwest to Union street, at the house of Hiram A. Oakman, "Oak street." From the corner near the Unitarian church, southwest and south past Aaron Sampson's and Joyce schoolhouse to the corner at James Ford's,



"Forest street." From the corner at the house of Warren Gardner, to Forest street, "Valley street." From the corner of Samuel Hatch's mill, east across Forest street to Main street, "Pine street." From the South Baptist church, northeast past the Joyce schoolhouse to Main street, "School street." From Byron Simmons', southwest to Pembroke line, "Lone street." From the Pembroke line near the house of William Hall, past South Baptist church and James Ford's to the store of Luther P. Hatch, "Plain street." From Little's bridge, south through East Marshfield village, past the Town poor house and Methodist church to H. C. Dunham's mill and South River bridge, "Main street." From the house of Enos Stoddard, west and south to Highland street, "Spring street." From the corner near the house of James Ford, east across Main street to the corner at the house of Jessie L. Lewis, "Furnace street." From the corner near the house of John Magoun, south to the house of Simeon B. Chandler, "Crow street." From Hatch's Corner, northeast past Walker's mill to Enos Stoddard's, "Summer street." From James L. Rogers' house, northeast to Walker's Pond, "Prospect street." From Edgar Hood's house, east past the bakery to Main street, "Bow street." From Rogers' Corner southeast to the lower railroad bridge, opposite the late Tilden Ames' residence, "Pleasant street." From the Wales Tilden place and corner C. Rodgers Richards' estate, southwest through Canoe Tree swamp, "Canoe Tree street." From Hatch's Corner, northeast and southeast to Ferry street, "Elm street." From Barstow Carver place to William Hall's, "Sea street." From Hatch's Corner, south to Keene's Corner, "Church street." From the Methodist church, northeast past Winslow Conant's, the Ferry schoolhouse, and Samuel William's to the Ferry, "Ferry street." From the corner at the house of William Porter, northeast past George Bailey's, to the corner at the house of Benjamin F. Keene, "Grove

street." From the corner at the Agricultural hall, past Elijah Williamson's, William Sherman's, and Capt. Asa Sherman's, to the Ferry schoolhouse, "South River street." From District No. 2 schoolhouse, northeast past Thomas Baker's to the corner, "Willow street." From the corner near the house of Henry Sprague, north and west past the house of Peleg S. Kent to the Duxbury line, "Mount Skirgo street." From the Duxbury line, near the house of Joseph Sprague, east past Harvey Sprague's, Dr. George W. Baker's, and Marshfield postoffice, over Marshfield Neck and by the Beach to the termination of the streets south of Brant Rock village, "Ocean street." From the Marshfield postoffice, past George M. Baker's and Samuel Shepherd's to the Duxbury line, by the house of Ichabod Weston, "Morraine street." From the corner near the house of John Church, southwest past John Baker's to the Duxbury line, near the house of Calvin Paine, "Acorn street." From the corner near the house of Edmund Hackett, west past the house of Hiram Butterfield to the Duxbury line, "Walnut street." From the corner east of the widow of Otis Barker, north past Curtis B. Goodsell's and Elijah Ames' to the Beach, "Winslow street." From the Marshfield station, east past R. H. Moorehead's and Charles P. Wright's to the corner by the Winslow house, "Webster street." From the corner at the house of John A. Harlow, southwest past Chas. Sampson's to the corner at the house of Edmond Hackett, "Parsonage street." From Brant Rock village over the westerly part of Branches' Island, "Island street." From Cut River village, west past the Winslow house and Green Harbor station to the Duxbury line, "Careswell street." From the corner near the Careswell place, south over Canal bridge to the Duxbury line, "Canal street." From the corner near the house of Henry Cook, south to the Beach, "Beach street." From the corner near the house of Charles Sprague, through Cut River village to Beach street, "Mar-

ginal street." From the corner by the Webster house at Cut river to the house of Henry Tolman, "Central street." From the west end of Careswell street, southwest to the Duxbury line, "South street." The street past Warren T. Whiting's, commencing and terminating on Ocean street, "Rock street." The street across the corner from Highland street to Union street, "Short street." The street past Thomas Stevens' and Mrs. Fanny Crane's, commencing and terminating on Summer street, "Station street."

## CHAPTER LVII.

### *Occupations.—Wayside Trees.*

The occupations of the citizens of Marshfield have been varied. In the 19th century, the callings were divided between shipbuilding on the North river and agriculture, and many of our citizens worked for several years at East Boston in the shipyards. There has been some shoe manufacturing in town, but not on a very large scale. The main occupation of our people has been farming. Some of the farms here contain 300 acres, but it is generally conceded now that those unfortunate enough to own so large an area are "land poor," for it has been found that small farms pay better than large. There have been a number of farmers who have made a business of producing milk, but today there are very few in that business, except those living near the beaches.

For the past few years, the closing decade of the nineteenth century, much attention has been paid to the cultivation of the strawberry, so that today Marshfield strawberries sent to Boston markets are well known and have the name of being the finest berries sent there. A night express carries the berries to the Boston market. The larger part of the berries are raised at the northern end of the town.

#### *Trees on the Roadside.*

At Marshfield Hills the residents, half a century ago, and later, had an eye to the beauty of the village, and set out elm and maple trees on some of the principal streets, and today the large and stately elms and maples adorning the thoroughfares are the admiration of visitors who frequent the village on the Hills. The Rogers, the Weatherbees, and the Leonards were chiefly instrumental in planting them.

But a short time after the late Wales Rogers set the elms in front of his house, before the middle of the 19th century, a gentleman driving past in a chaise to visit Daniel Webster stopped and spoke admiringly to Mr. Rogers about his trees. "Why!" said Mr. Rogers, "some of the citizens here threaten to destroy them because they are on the outside of the sidewalk." The stranger spoke with emphasis: "My name is Judge Shaw (then the famous chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court). If anybody harms those trees in the least, inform me at once, and I will attend to them. Those trees will be the beauty of the village." They were never disturbed. The late Elisha W. Hall bought and set out elm trees in vacant spots from the railroad station, along the street to the Unitarian meeting house, some ten years ago. At the same time Walton Hall bought and set out 500 elms along the street leading from Green Harbor towards South Marshfield.

## CHAPTER LVIII.

### *Marshfield Items.*

Temperance has always been the prevailing sentiment in Marshfield for many years. For a quarter of a century or more it has voted "no license," except last year, 1900. And then the license element was defeated by a vote of the town being passed immediately afterwards, to make the license fee one million dollars, and also voted to appropriate \$5,000 to enforce the law, but the chief obstacle that prevented the liquor dealers from obtaining a license was that the Board of Selectmen would not grant a license, and hence the town was practically no-license.

A representative to the General Court from this district represents five towns. At present it includes Duxbury, Marshfield, Pembroke, Norwell, and Scituate; the district is called the Second Plymouth Representative District. Republicans are largely in the majority throughout the district, and at present Mr. Charles N. Gardner, of Norwell, represents the district in the Legislature.

Before the South Shore Railroad was built, in early days, Jedediah Little ran a public chaise, a two-wheel vehicle, from Marshfield to Boston, to accommodate the traveling public. He was a man of considerable nerve, and upon one occasion his leg was so badly injured that amputation became necessary. While the surgeons were arranging matters in an adjoining room for the operation, Mr. Little was telling stories to some one by his side, and when the surgeons entered to prepare him for the operation, he looked up and said: "Oh, yes; I had forgotten you," and they proceeded with the amputation without any more words.

A Mr. Hatch followed him in the passenger service. After

the South Shore road was built from Braintree to Cohasset, a stage was run by Charles Hatch and his brother, Franklin W. Hatch, from Cohasset station to Marshfield, and the arrival of the stage at the different villages along the route, was daily the signal for stirring times among the villagers to witness and greet the new arrivals. When the Duxbury & Cohasset railroad was built, the stage route was abandoned.

Tangible evidence can be seen today that the Indians had their habitations and "hunting grounds" in Marshfield, for we are constantly finding Indian implements, in the form of arrow heads, spear heads, stone pestles, and stone hammers. The author has found some of these on his grounds, and so have others on their land. Dr. Stephen Henry of Marshfield, who is much interested in Indian relics, has in his office a large collection of these implements, found in various localities of the town, ranging from arrow heads, in large numbers, to spear heads, stone hammers, axes, pestles, and other implements. Not only was there game for the Indians on the marshes, as birds, etc., but the woods were teeming with other game, and the North river abundantly stocked with fish.

One of the most noted men of Marshfield in the days of the Revolution was Capt. Luther Little. He was a seafaring man, and probably passed through more stirring scenes in his life than any man living in the precincts of Marshfield. He began young in his career. At the age of ten he and some other boys about his home at Littletown (now Sea View) thought they would go for a swim in one of those narrow streams not far from the shore. When their swim was completed, young Little hastened for his clothes, and lo, and behold, they were not there, for the tide had come up during the bath and floated them to the sea. There was nothing for him to do but to take as concealed a path as he could find and make for his home with all possi-



ble speed, as naked as when he came into the world; as soon as his home was reached, he stealthily crept unobserved up stairs and crawled into bed. His mother at last discovered his whereabouts, and upon inquiry why he was in bed, he told her he was sick, and thereupon she made him some herb tea. "And thus," said he, "I escaped a severe whipping." When he became old he said he had been through a great many scrapes, but he never felt so bad as when he lost that suit of clothes.

[He passed through a great many hairbreadth escapes in his many voyages between here and Russia, but I will only mention some of the stirring historic scenes of the sea during the Revolution, which are unrecorded in history. He was my wife's, Miriam's, grandfather. A sketch of the events was written in manuscript by a friend as he related them a year before he died, at the age of 83.]

"We arrived at Martinique, W. I., in fourteen days, [In the early days of the Revolution.] where the committee of North Carolina sent for powder and balls. While we lay here we were obliged to observe the law, which required a French captain on board. An English frigate lay near, who sent her barge and lieutenant on board to make prize of our sloop. The lieutenant ordered the anchors up, to tow her alongside the frigate. Our French captain drove him forward with a handspike, and would have knocked out his brains had he not returned."

"When nearing North Carolina twelve American pilot boats came out and took our powder and balls, and informed us that the King's tender lay waiting to take us." Little's vessel had to surrender, but through some skilful management Little escaped, but the captain and the rest of the crew were taken prisoners, and carried to Norfolk:

"While crossing the woods one morning here." Captain Little says, "I was chased by a wild boar and was obliged (he being close to my heels) to climb a tree. Here I re-

mained half an hour, he biting the trunk the while, and then disappeared."

He next shipped on board a brig bound for Cadiz, Spain, Tobias Oakman, master. Before the vessel reached port it was wrecked. He says: "I was washed from the quarter-deck over her bows forward, where I caught hold of the topmast staysail downhaul, and hauled myself on to the wreck. After getting on to the wreck, I found that one of my legs was broken." After striking against the rocks they all lashed themselves to the after part of the vessel. Nothing remained but the stern posts and quarterdeck, to which they were lashed. They remained in this perilous situation fifteen hours, when the gale abated.

Captain Little's leg being broken, he was carried by two men to a castle on the farther end of the reef, near Lisbon, and in a few days was removed to a hospital in that city, where he was obliged to remain for six months. His broken leg was so badly swollen on the wreck that the shoe belonging to the foot of that leg did not wash away, and lucky it was for the captain that it did not. Before he left Marshfield he had a pair of shoes made and had a number of gold sovereigns placed between the lifts of the heel, concealed and well secured. This shoe he had placed under his pillow in the hospital, and when he recovered, these sovereigns, in traveling through Spain over three hundred miles to a port, in search of a vessel for the United States, saved him from starvation, in the purchase of food, etc. He found a chance to go to America by entering on the brig Rambler, Captain Stevens. He applied to John Jay, minister to Spain, for provisions for the ship, and after some delay and doubt he obtained them and sailed from Cadiz to America.

"After thirty days out," he says, "we saw an English privateer schooner coming towards us, by the help of her sweeps. She was on the starboard side. We shifted our guns over to that side to make out the tier. Captain Stev-

ens ordered us to our quarters. When the privateer came up to us, we gave her a broadside. She fired upon us, then dropped astern, and came up on the larboard side. As soon as the guns would bear upon her we gave her another broadside. They returned the same. The privateer, giving up the contest, dropped astern and made off, we giving her three cheers."

He returned to his home at Littleton, Marshfield, and after remaining there a short while, in 1780 he entered on board the United States ship *Protector*, of 26 guns (crew, 230), as midshipman and prize master. She was commanded by John F. Williams, of Boston. He says: "My brother, George Little of Marshfield (occupying the estate now owned by Enos Stoddard, near Little's bridge, where his son, Edward Little, representative and town clerk many years, lived) was first lieutenant. They were on a six months' cruise. After a short time out in the direction of Newfoundland, they met an English vessel called the *Admiral Duff*, of 1100 tons burden, with 36 twelve-pounders on the gun deck, and furnished with 250 men, Richard Strange, master.

"After passing a little by to the leeward, she hove to under fighting sail. She prepared for action. Very soon I heard the sailing master call for his trumpet and cried, 'Let fall the foresail, sheet home the maintop gallantsail.' We steered down across her stern and hauled up under her lee quarter. At the same time we were breeching our guns aft to bring her to bear. The captain ordered a broadside given, and colors changed, the thirteen stripes took the place of the English ensign on our ship, they gave us three cheers and fired a broadside. They partly overshot us, their ship being so much higher than ours, cutting away some of our rigging. The action commenced within pistol shot and now began a regular battle, broadside to broadside. After we had engaged one half hour, there came a cannon ball through one

side and killed Mr. Scolley, one of our midshipmen. He commanded the fourth 12-pounder from the stern, myself commanded the third. The ball took him in the head, his brains flew upon my gun and into my face. The man at my gun who rammed down the charge was a stout Irishman, Immediately upon the death of Mr. Scolley, he stripped his shirt and exclaimed: 'An' faith, if they kill me, they shall tuck no rags into me.'

"The action continued about an hour, when all the topmen on board the enemy's ship were killed by our marines. Our marines killing the man at the wheel caused the ship to come down upon us; her cathead stove in our quarter gallery. We lashed their jibboom to our main shrouds. Our marines from the quarterdeck firing into their portholes, kept them from charging. We were ordered from our quarters on board, but before we were able, the lashing broke. We were ordered back to quarters to charge the ship, shooting alongside of us, the yards nearly locked. We gave her a broadside, which cut away her mizzenmast and made great havoc among them. We perceived her sinking, at the same time saw her maintop gallantsail on fire, which ran down the rigging and caught a hogshead of cartridges under the quarterdeck and blew it off. At this time there came into the port where I commanded a charge of grapeshot. I was wounded; one between my neck bone and windpipe, one through my jaw, lodging in the roof of my mouth and taking off a piece of my tongue, the other through the upper lip, taking a part of the lip and all of my upperteeth." [An oil portrait of him in the old homestead, still existing, shows this wound in the lip.]

"I was immediately taken to the cockpit, to the surgeon. My gun was fired only once afterward; I had fired nineteen times. I lay unattended, being considered mortally wounded. I was perfectly sensible and heard the surgeon's remark, 'Let Little lay; attend to the others first; he will die.'

Perceiving me motion, the surgeon came to me and washed off the blood. I bled profusely, the surgeon thought two gallons. I was placed in my berth. By this time the enemy's ship had sunk. My brother, the first lieutenant, said to me that such was the pride of the enemy, when on the brink of a watery grave, they fought like demons, preferring death with the rest of their comrades, rather than captivity, and that it was with much difficulty that many of them were forced into our boats, several even made the attempt to jump overboard."

"We sailed for the coast of Nova Scotia. After cruising a week we discovered a large ship steering for us. We saw she was a large English frigate. The frigate made for us fast. When she came up near to us, we fired four stern chasers, and kept firing, the ship in chase. When she got near our stern, she luffed and gave us a broadside. It did no other damage save one shot lodging in the mainmast, and cutting away some rigging. By this time we gained ahead of her. We made a running fire till dark, the enemy choosing not to come alongside. At eight in the evening she left and hauled her wind to the southward, we to the north. The following morning she was seen in the distance, sailing on her course."

"After arriving at port at five in the afternoon, we discovered a large, black snake coming down from out the bushes abreast the ship. He took to the water and swam by us. We judged him to be forty feet long and his middle the size of a man's body. He carried his head fourteen feet above water. We manned a barge and went in chase of him. When fired at, he would dive like a sea fowl. They chased him a mile and a half, firing continually. The snake landed at Lowd's Island and disappeared in the woods."

Captain Little returned to his home in Marshfield and soon after re-engaged on the same ship, passing through

several more victorious naval battles. He became captain of several large vessels and sailed the seas years after. His grandchildren, Luther and Miss Joanna Little, occupy the same dwelling that he lived in, where his father and great-grandfather lived before him. It was built two or three generations before the Revolution. The captain's Old Colony ancestors owned originally a tract of land extending from Little's bridge to White's Ferry.

*Post Offices.*

There are seven post offices in Marshfield as follows: Marshfield Hills, Ella Damon, postmistress. Marshfield, Augustus Bosworth, postmaster. Sea View, Chester Ewell, postmaster. North Marshfield, Carlton Tilden, postmaster. Standish, A. R. Magoun, postmaster. Brant Rock, Walter Peterson, postmaster. Green Harbor, Chas. McLaughlin, postmaster.



















